

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
3 WESTERN DIVISION

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Docket No. 3:18CR387  
4 Plaintiffs, Toledo, Ohio  
5 v. September 26, 2019

6 RICHARD L. ROWOLD and  
7 STEVEN J. ROBISON,  
8 Defendants.

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10 TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING  
11 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES G. CARR  
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

13 APPEARANCES:

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13 produced by notereading.  
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1           COURTROOM DEPUTY: Case 3:18CR387, United States  
2 of America versus Richard L. Rowold, et al. matter called  
3 for motion to dismiss hearing.

4           THE COURT: Okay. And counsel, first for the  
5 government, Mr. Weldon?

6           MR. WELDON: Good morning, Your Honor. This is  
7 Tom Weldon representing the United States in this case.  
8 Today with me, Judge, I'd like to introduce two Special  
9 Assistant United States Attorneys. To my immediate left is  
10 James Vann, and next to him is John Jacob somebody.

11          THE COURT: V-A-N-N?

12          MR. VANN: V-A-N-N, correct, Your Honor. Thank  
13 you.

14          MR. WELDON: Judge, these two gentlemen actually  
15 work for the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and  
16 their chief counsel office is in West Virginia and  
17 Washington D.C., but Justin Herdman recently swore them  
18 both in to assist us in this matter today.

19          THE COURT: Absolutely. Welcome, counsel. And  
20 if the clerk -- if you'll just provide the contact  
21 information, I'll have them noted as co-counsel --

22          MR. WELDON: Thank you, Your Honor.

23          THE COURT: -- pro hac vice if that's necessary.  
24 For the defendants?

25          MS. JOHNSON: Good morning, Your Honor,

1     Jacqueline Johnson and Clair Cahoon --

2                 THE COURT:   It's Clair Keegan (sic) and --

3                 MS. JOHNSON:  -- present with our client, Steve  
4     Robison, Your Honor.

5                 THE COURT:   Okay.

6                 MR. KURT:    Your Honor, Tom Kurt representing  
7     Mr. Rowold.

8                 THE COURT:   Just for the record, the matter comes  
9     on to be heard on the defendant's motion to dismiss.  I  
10    guess generally the contention is that the indictment fails  
11    to give adequate notice because the portion which  
12    colloquially is referred to as the lower receiver, which is  
13    at issue here contains, as I understand it, the hammer and  
14    the firing mechanism necessary to make -- turn the weapon  
15    into a firearm, make it operate, eject a projectile with an  
16    explosive, but it does not contain either the bolted or the  
17    breechblock.  The statute under the Gun Control Act  
18    simply -- in its definition as to what constitutes a  
19    firearm simply includes the single term along with some  
20    other categories, receiver, closed quote.  Regulations  
21    adopted by the agency define the receiver as that part of  
22    the firearm that contains the hammer, comma, the bolt or  
23    breechblock, comma, and the firing mechanism.

24                 If I understand correctly, and if I don't,  
25    counsel, please correct me, the contention is because what

1 is designated and serial numbered as -- it's not  
2 designated, but, once again, colloquially called at least,  
3 the lower receiver contains only the hammer and the firing  
4 mechanism, as I indicated what is colloquially called the  
5 upper receiver contains what, a bolt or a breechblock,  
6 anybody know? Can somebody tell me? And perhaps counsel  
7 with ATF --

8 MR. VANN: The upper receiver is colloquially,  
9 what is referred to often as the upper receiver contains  
10 the bolt, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. I know it's not part of the  
12 record, but I -- and I -- perhaps I could look up and  
13 Google, I don't know, but shouldn't go shopping for  
14 information that way. Can you describe it to me  
15 physically? I know nothing about firearms, okay.

16 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, I apologize for  
17 interrupting, but I believe we have firearms experts both  
18 for the defense and the government.

19 THE COURT: Do you have --

20 MS. CAHOON: There we go --

21 THE COURT: My apologies.

22 MS. CAHOON: Yes. Pardon my interruption, I just  
23 wanted to let The Court know that the defense and the  
24 government both do have firearms experts who will be  
25 testifying, and they'll be breaking down all of these

1 different terms.

2 THE COURT: Today or later?

3 MS. CAHOON: Yes, right now, Your Honor.

4 MR. WELDON: Your Honor --

5 MS. CAHOON: That may help resolve any confusion.

6 THE COURT: Time out. One at a time. Go ahead,  
7 Mr. Weldon. Everybody's going to get a chance to talk. As  
8 Mr. Weldon and Ms. Johnson and Mr. Kurt all know, I do have  
9 one rule about talking, and that is when my mouth is open,  
10 everybody else's is shut. As I may have already indicated,  
11 I may be off target, the metaphor fits, and if so, please  
12 don't interrupt. I don't think any of you have witnessed,  
13 I hope, what happens when somebody interrupts me and I get  
14 annoyed. I think I'm a pretty even tempered guy on the  
15 whole, some might dispute that, but the one thing that's  
16 guaranteed, for whatever reason, truly light my wick and  
17 send me off is getting interrupted. Don't ask me why. All  
18 people, Judges have idiosyncrasies, and that's the one that  
19 can get me very angry. So -- okay. So -- and the same  
20 with each other, okay. Everyone's going to get a chance to  
21 talk, I've got plenty of time this morning. Mr. Weldon, go  
22 ahead.

23 MR. WELDON: I think it would be helpful to  
24 mention to The Court that the government and the defense  
25 have arranged for, today, for The Court to have, as an

1 exhibit, a lower receiver, actually one of the lower  
2 receivers that were -- was allegedly purchased in this  
3 particular case. And at the request of defense, an actual  
4 upper or complete AR-15 style weapon is here in the  
5 courtroom today. Before this happened, Judge, I just want  
6 you to know I cleared it all with Alex Rutter. He has a  
7 deputy here with a key with a trigger lock on the  
8 particular AR-15. It's unloaded, and of course would be  
9 rendered safe immediately after testimony, but that was  
10 done in agreement with defense. They had an opportunity  
11 yesterday to come up to ATF to view these exhibits, and  
12 they are marked for The Court's benefit.

13 THE COURT: All right. And as I was saying, the  
14 last time I had a firearm in my hands was Boy Scout camp  
15 70 -- not quite -- 65 or more years ago, so I know nothing  
16 about firearms. That's good, I'm glad to hear that.

17 So anyway, just to sort of set what's before me  
18 in terms of legal issues for you, ATF adopted a -- you  
19 know, a regulation, as it's authorized to do, and the one  
20 at issue here says where used in this part, and I've  
21 already referred to that, that creates the problem, at  
22 least in the defendants' eyes with the indictment and the  
23 charge, and the problem they contend they have with notice.  
24 I do want to note that -- let me complete the -- what I was  
25 about to say. The regulation contains -- the following ATF

1 regulation contains the following were used in this part,  
2 and then forms prescribed under this part, comma, where not  
3 otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly inconsistent  
4 with this part with -- excuse me, with the -- I'm sorry, I  
5 have trouble reading, with the intent thereof, terms shall  
6 have the meanings ascribed in this -- in this section,  
7 okay. Sorry to be so clumsy, but -- so I think under the  
8 regulation itself raises the question of whether or not the  
9 statute itself simply expressly describes what a receiver  
10 is, quite simply using the term receiver. In other words,  
11 is the more elaborate definition or, quote, more precise  
12 definition or clarification necessary in view of the  
13 statutory term, and the, what I would suggest is the -- an  
14 understanding of what a receiver is relative to a firearm  
15 generally.

16 And secondly, I think another issue is whether or  
17 not the dual definition or the -- excuse me, the unitary  
18 definition as expressed here, whether or not is manifestly  
19 inconsistent with the intent thereof. And so far as I can  
20 tell, the term there of seems to refer to the phrase this  
21 part, I'm not sure where else it would go, but if that  
22 relates to something else, let me know.

23 So I guess a couple of issues here is whether,  
24 without the definition, the term receiver, as used in the  
25 statute itself, is sufficiently specific and clear to put



1 the defendants on notice of the requirements of the law,  
2 really regardless of whatever the statute says by way of  
3 punitive or alleged clarification or elaboration.

4           Secondly, there's, of course, the Chevron case,  
5 and I believe that the pertinent segment of that decision  
6 reads as follows, (Reading:) When a Court reviews an  
7 agency's instruction of the statute which ad -- administers  
8 it, excuse me, it is -- it is confronted with a question  
9 first always is the -- first always is a question whether  
10 Congress has directly spoken to the precise question at  
11 issue, and didn't Congress do so when it simply used the  
12 term receiver in light of the legislative -- statutory  
13 purpose, its manifest purpose in enacting the Gun Control  
14 Act and also replacing the former National Firearms with  
15 the current version, namely the Gun Control Act.

16           If the intent -- and second, if the intent of  
17 Congress is clear, then it is the end of the -- of the  
18 matter. Only question for defendants isn't the intent of  
19 Congress clear in enacting the statute? It's not -- using  
20 particular term, maybe it is, but certainly seems to me  
21 indisputably the intent of the statute is to undertake to  
22 control undesirable access to proliferation of and use of  
23 firearms. I would think that's indisputable, but if it is  
24 disputable let me know. And if so, to put the question  
25 quite bluntly to the defendants, well, does this -- isn't

1   this regulation interpreted in this case with regard to  
2   this overall weapon contrary to Congressional intent? It  
3   would undo, wouldn't it, congressional intent with a  
4   weapon? I think it's fair to say, I suspect the record, in  
5   due course, will show and be relatively easily altered by  
6   somebody with a modest bit of knowledge and no longer serve  
7   as a semi-automatic weapon but a, you know, automatic  
8   firearm. And doesn't it cut the heart out of the  
9   congressional purpose and ignore absolutely the intent of  
10   Congress to say, well, we've got the definition here,  
11   Judge, and, therefore, dismiss us and go home? I'm putting  
12   the question to defense counsel quite clearly just so that  
13   you know what's on my mind at this point, and I think -- I  
14   hope all the lawyers in the room, except the guests, are  
15   aware that I can change my mind and sometimes prone to do  
16   so even after I've heard all argument or whatever. But  
17   just -- I'm trying to put it directly to you that, first,  
18   with regard to the regulation itself what's to clarify  
19   about the term receiver? We're not talking about a  
20   telephone, we're not talking about a, you know, radio.  
21   We're not talking about somebody who gets e-mail. We're  
22   not talking about somebody I appoint to marshal the assets  
23   of a potentially bankrupt company, and we're certainly not  
24   talking football. We're talking a gun, firearm. As I  
25   understand it, and I only -- my understanding comes solely

1 from the term firing mechanism, you take the firing  
2 mechanism and the hammer out, and the AM-15, whether as a  
3 semi-automatic or automatic firearm, is more -- is not even  
4 as harmful as a Nerf gun or a water pistol. It's -- it's  
5 the guts of what makes the gun shoot.

6           And another question that may bear some further  
7 research is, well, who uses -- I know that the manufacturer  
8 uses those terms, and others, military and so forth, but  
9 isn't it simply, you know, the fact that we refer to a  
10 certain portion, the bolt or whatever, as the upper  
11 receiver and the rest is the lower receiver, the thing  
12 that -- the mechanism that actually makes the thing shoot  
13 whatever's been put in the chamber or the -- you know,  
14 bolted in or however it works. I mean, from a -- from a --  
15 any standpoint, does it make sense to let those terms  
16 unique to this weapon for whatever purpose they may be so  
17 used and the fact that only one part is serialized, maybe  
18 that simply suggests that as the agency has interpreted and  
19 applied the overall statute, it didn't have to serialize  
20 the bolt because, after all, they are -- and I'll find out  
21 soon, to the extent to which -- they're physically  
22 connected I assume, that somehow there's -- to that extent  
23 they're a single unit, you know, quote, the lower receiver  
24 can't function without the upper. The upper receiver can't  
25 function without the lower, and therefore, in light of the

1 statute referring to the receiver, although that term --  
2 those terms may be applied to this construct, this --  
3 this -- how this particular part is fabricated, simple  
4 truth is together jointly and joined together some way, I  
5 assume, whether in the same housing or not, I'll find out,  
6 I gather not, otherwise we probably wouldn't be here. So  
7 what. And we're not talking, say, well football or  
8 telephones, we're talking about firearms. And -- and  
9 nobody could argue for a moment somebody reading the  
10 statute would think they're talking about somebody that's  
11 about to get a package or catch a football or receive a  
12 telephone call. It's a firearm. So I put it quite  
13 squarely and bluntly to you, and I thought we'd cut to the  
14 chase. And if you want a few moments to talk amongst  
15 yourself and prepare your thoughts -- so, one, just to try  
16 to summarize, one is, isn't the statute enough, clear  
17 enough, sure, we've got the regulation. It's my  
18 understanding regulations are supposed to clarify, make  
19 something to fill a legislative gap, to make something  
20 that, read on its own, would really leave somebody baffled,  
21 whether it's A or B or C or D. And then isn't it -- is the  
22 term inconsistent with this part refers -- part refers, as  
23 I assume it does, just to the regulations, nonetheless with  
24 the intent thereof, nonetheless the regulations, the  
25 purpose, the intent of ATF in adopting the regulations

1 cannot be to weaken the force and effect of the statute,  
2 and -- and nullify its enforcement, especially when you're  
3 talking about a weapon of this sort and this kind.  
4 Manufacturing or other convenience they call three parts  
5 because somehow they're separated and not housed together,  
6 or whatever it is, upper and lower receiver.

7           So secondly, with regard to the Chevron Doctrine,  
8 and of course, as I understand it, at least Justice  
9 Kavanaugh has taken the view, that Law Review Article that  
10 I came across that says judges should interpret statutes,  
11 not agencies. And I haven't delved into what's happened in  
12 Chevron, I don't think I have to except apparently its --  
13 its command, as I understand it dimly, that sort of a  
14 heightened sense of deference to the agents -- agency,  
15 they're the experts, they know what they're talking about,  
16 leave it to them. It's my understanding that he's not  
17 alone in saying, hey, among other things that raises  
18 serious questions about the separation of powers and  
19 exemplified in its line I just referenced from that  
20 article.

21           So that being said, I say you're welcome to take  
22 a few moments, or you're welcome to go. Do you want to  
23 show me them first, or would you like to call a witness?

24           MS. CAHOON: I think, Your Honor, respectfully,  
25 we would like to take a moment.

1 THE COURT: I'm having trouble --

2 MS. CAHOON: If Your Honor's willing, we would  
3 like to take a moment to just refer at counsel table.

4 THE COURT: If you want to go back there, that's  
5 a more private --

6 MS. CAHOON: I think we probably only need a  
7 moment at counsel table and then we'll be ready to call our  
8 first witness.

9 THE COURT: Does somebody want to show this thing  
10 to me?

11 MS. CAHOON: Yes, Your Honor, our witness will do  
12 that. We'll be just a moment.

13 THE COURT: Take whatever time you want. The  
14 proponent always has a rock to roll up a hill. I  
15 understand I've made the rock a lot heavier and the hill a  
16 lot steeper. I know Jackie and Mr. Weldon know it's just  
17 my practice to say this is what I'm thinking rather than  
18 put all this stuff in an opinion and then you say, well,  
19 gee --

20 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor, we do  
21 appreciate it.

22 THE COURT: And the real no no is come back with  
23 a motion to reconsider.

24 Go ahead, take whatever time you need.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

1           THE COURT:  Actually, sorry to interrupt, if I  
2  am.  It might be useful for all of us at least to find out  
3  from the government if I have overstated or misstated those  
4  views in terms of somewhat distorted either what its  
5  argument is or what the issue is.  If the government says,  
6  Judge, actually you have it wrong in this respect, that  
7  might make it easier for everybody, any problem -- I don't  
8  want to -- I'm not trying to open the gate to the argument,  
9  I just want to say, Judge, you said this, that or the other  
10 thing, and we even disagree with that.

11           MS. CAHOON:  Certainly.  I appreciate the  
12 courtesy in asking us.  If The Court is willing, our  
13 preference would be to present our witness and then for  
14 both sides to have an opportunity to argue what they think  
15 the relative issues are in light of those --

16           THE COURT:  Of course.  Absolutely.

17           MS. CAHOON:  Thank you so much for giving us that  
18 time, Your Honor, we appreciate that.  We would ask -- or  
19 we would call Daniel O'Kelly as the witness for the  
20 defense.

21           MR. WELDON:  The government has a witness present  
22 here today as well, it's Mr. Dan Hoffman.  He's seated in  
23 the back of the courtroom today.  I wasn't going to make a  
24 motion for separation of witnesses unless the defense  
25 thought that would be helpful.  I just want to make The

1 Court aware we do have a --

2 THE COURT: I think it's custom in civil cases  
3 if -- correct me if I'm wrong, but it's my understanding  
4 that when it comes to expert testimony, there's generally  
5 no separation. I don't really care, okay.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Your Honor --

7 THE COURT: Doesn't matter to me.

8 MS. JOHNSON: We did not ask for a separation of  
9 witnesses because we anticipate that we want our witness,  
10 after he testifies to --

11 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I'm having a little  
12 trouble hearing you.

13 MS. JOHNSON: We did not ask for a separation of  
14 witnesses because we anticipate that after our witness  
15 testifies we'd like him to remain in the courtroom.

16 THE COURT: Sure.

17 MS. JOHNSON: So thank you.

18 THE COURT: Rebuttal or whatever, sure that's  
19 fine.

20 DANIEL O'KELLY,  
21 was herein, called as if upon examination, was first duly  
22 sworn, as hereinafter certified, and said as follows:

23 THE COURT: Good morning.

24 A. Good morning, sir.

25 THE COURT: You've got to sit about this



1 distance -- just about this distance of your four fingers.

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: So tell me your name, please.

4 A. Daniel O'Kelly.

5 THE COURT: What's your present community of  
6 residence?

7 A. I live in Denton, Texas, sir.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Home of Texas Women's College.

9 A. Yes, it's very close to my home.

10 THE COURT: Our daughter received a Ph.D. there a  
11 year ago December, very enjoyable visit. Very happy for us  
12 and our entire family so we enjoyed it.

13 So do you have a present occupation or way to  
14 earn a living right now?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: And what is that?

17 A. I'm the Director of the International Firearms  
18 Specialist Academy.

19 THE COURT: What is that?

20 A. Excuse me, it's a guild of firearm experts that  
21 serve to assist and train law enforcement, the firearm  
22 industry and the legal profession.

23 THE COURT: And assist in what way, and train in  
24 what way?

25 A. We teach 14 separate topics in a course called

1 Certified Firearms Specialist to raise the bar of firearm  
2 training within those three industries to bring people up  
3 to a fully competent level. And we assist, in addition to  
4 training, by serving as expert witnesses in civil and  
5 criminal trials.

6 THE COURT: You say you're a guild, it's  
7 international, did you have a membership roster, or if so  
8 how many members? It's not that relevant, I'm just  
9 curious.

10 A. There are about a dozen consultants on staff,  
11 including two doctors, two attorneys, the rest are retired  
12 law enforcement people, including one who is the chief of  
13 the firearms unit of the South African Police Service.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And what's your position with  
15 that organization again?

16 A. I'm the director.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And how long have you been  
18 with it?

19 A. Since 2011.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And before that what did you  
21 do?

22 A. I was two years a corporate senior manager for  
23 the Cabelas Corporation Outdoors companies. It was the  
24 biggest firearm dealer in the world.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And before that what did you

1 do?

2 A. I was with ATF for 23 years.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And what were your duties,  
4 generally? What sort of areas did your -- into what sort  
5 of areas did you -- what kinds of activities and so forth  
6 did your duties take you, your assignments?

7 A. As an ATF I was a criminal investigator special  
8 agent. I specialized in firearm knowledge, everything from  
9 range training to interstate Nexus. I did a lot of  
10 teaching in the U.S. and internationally in that capacity.  
11 I've toured quite a number of firearm and ammunition  
12 factories in the U.S. and abroad. I've been through a  
13 number of armored schools, just any firearm training of any  
14 kind that was available, applied myself to it having been a  
15 life-long student of firearm history, design and anything  
16 related to it.

17 THE COURT: And before becoming an ATF agent,  
18 what did you do?

19 A. I was a police officer for 11 years in Northwest  
20 Indiana.

21 THE COURT: Whereabouts?

22 A. Portage, sir, near Gary, Indiana. It's Portage,  
23 Indiana on Lake Michigan.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And then before that?

25 A. I was a general manager for a small oil company,

1     which was basically just a series of gasoline stations, but  
2     they called themselves Parker Oil Company. I was their  
3     general manager and worked my way up to that position  
4     having just been a gas station attendant prior to that as a  
5     kid in high school.

6             THE COURT: Okay. And how long were you with  
7     them?

8     A.             I was with them for four years as I recall.

9             THE COURT: Okay. And you are a native of that  
10    area, Indiana area, Northern Indiana?

11    A.             Yes, sir.

12             THE COURT: Okay. Okay.

13             MS. CAHOON: Thank you so much, Your Honor.

14             THE COURT: I assume there's no objection to him  
15    being permitted to testify and give his opinion on whatever  
16    relevant matters he may be testifying to?

17             MR. VANN: No, Your Honor.

18             THE COURT: Okay.

19                     DIRECT EXAMINATION

20    BY MS. CAHOON:

21    Q.             Good morning, Mr. O'Kelly.

22             THE COURT: I apologize, Ms. Keegan (sic), just  
23    FYI, counsel, looking down the road in the event of a  
24    trial, I would prefer that you avoid the use of the term  
25    expert. It's a little phobia of mine. I think it tends to

1 give a witness greater weight, perhaps, than other  
2 witnesses in the case, and I think that's particularly  
3 something to be avoided in a criminal case, because, as you  
4 know, when we instruct -- the jury can take into account  
5 his testimony and evaluate credibility and reliability,  
6 same standards and so forth, so anyway just FYI, that's why  
7 I refer to he's qualified to give his opinion on whatever  
8 subject is relevant. So go ahead.

9 MS. CAHOON: Thank for your clarification, Your  
10 Honor.

11 BY MS. CAHOON:

12 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, good morning.

13 A. Good morning.

14 Q. I just have a few additional questions about your  
15 background to supplement what Judge Carr already asked you  
16 about. Could you tell us a little more specifically what  
17 your role as director, your current role involves?

18 A. I do most of the training; however we do have two  
19 other active current instructors which teach our seminars,  
20 so I coordinate their activities and direct them. I serve  
21 as an expert witness -- or a witness, I'm sorry, I serve as  
22 a witness in criminal and civil litigations, and I direct  
23 the other consultants on our staff which do the same thing,  
24 I develop the training.

25 Q. And does your company work in all parts of the

1 country?

2 A. Yes, we do.

3 Q. Could you tell us a little bit about your  
4 educational background, please?

5 A. I have a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana  
6 University.

7 Q. And what sorts of firearm trainings have you  
8 received?

9 A. I've successfully completed, in no particular  
10 order, 13 armorer schools, interstate Nexus, basic and  
11 advanced courses, all the ones that ATF offers. I was a  
12 range instructor from 1980 as certified by the Indiana Law  
13 Enforcement Academy, and then the Federal Law Enforcement  
14 Training Center, and some smaller certifications like  
15 firearm training simulator. I forget some of the other  
16 ones, but there were more.

17 Q. Do you have any specific certifications?

18 A. I've been certified as an instructor for a lot of  
19 police and firearm-related topics, yes.

20 Q. Thank you. Have you ever testified as a witness  
21 regarding specialized knowledge in firearms before?

22 A. Many times.

23 Q. About how many times, just ballpark?

24 A. Ballpark probably 100.

25 Q. And have you testified in state or federal court?

1 A. Both.

2 Q. Have you testified for the defense or for the  
3 prosecution?

4 A. Both.

5 Q. And have you testified in civil or criminal  
6 cases?

7 A. Both.

8 Q. Was some portion of that testimony during your  
9 role as an ATF agent?

10 A. Yes, it was.

11 Q. And was there testimony you provided in your  
12 current role?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were you asked to review police reports and  
15 receipts relating to this case for defendant Steven Robison  
16 and his co-defendant?

17 A. Yes, I was.

18 Q. You'll see there's a black binder there in front  
19 of you that has some of defense exhibits for your  
20 reference.

21 Let's just start by talking a little bit about  
22 sort of the basic terms we're going to be using. If you  
23 take a look at Defense Exhibit A.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, could you please tell me, what is

1     that a picture of?

2     A.           That's the item which ATF refers to as an AR-15  
3     type lower receiver.

4     Q.           And if you take a look at Defense Exhibit D, E  
5     and F --

6                 THE COURT:  Counsel, anybody mind if I look at  
7     the various exhibits before they're proffered?

8                 MR. VANN:  No, Your Honor, no objection.

9     BY MS. CAHOON:

10    Q.           Are you familiar with these documents?

11    A.           Yes.

12    Q.           What sort of documents are they?

13    A.           These are ATF Reports of Investigation.

14    Q.           And do they describe a particular gun component?

15    A.           Yes.

16    Q.           What gun component do they describe?

17    A.           Anderson -- Anderson manufactured receivers.

18    Q.           Are these the same kind of lower receivers as the  
19    one we're looking at in Defense Exhibit A?

20    A.           Yes.

21    Q.           In these documents they sometimes describe them  
22    as stripped lower receivers, could you tell us what that  
23    means?

24    A.           That refers to a receiver, as they call it, the  
25    lower in a lower AR-15 type, lower which has no parts



1 attached to it, whether it ever did, or whether it's right  
2 from the factory and has never had anything installed in  
3 it. Some people say bare receiver versus stripped, whereas  
4 stripped indicates that maybe it had parts in it prior and  
5 they've been removed. Some people just refer to it as a  
6 bare receiver.

7 THE COURT: In other words, is this what I call  
8 the housing, in other words, parts go inside there  
9 somewhere?

10 A. Yes, sir, some of the parts in the definition go  
11 inside.

12 THE COURT: This is a container for the parts?

13 A. For some of them, yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Whatever parts go in there they're  
15 not in there right now?

16 A. Correct, yes, sir.

17 Q. And to clarify, Mr. O'Kelly, there are times when  
18 they write AM-15 and times when they write AR-15, are those  
19 terms different?

20 A. The original design of this firearm, the  
21 blueprint that the AM-15 is made from, was named an AR-15  
22 by the designer, and there are hundreds of companies which  
23 manufacture and/or market copies of it, clones which are  
24 made from the exact same blueprints. The parts  
25 interchange, but since the patent ran out long ago some

1 companies decide rather than calling it an AR-15 they call  
2 theirs an AM-15 or a CR-15, or they sometimes use the  
3 number 16 instead of a 15. They can call it anything they  
4 want, just happens to be that Anderson refers to theirs as  
5 an AM-15 I believe.

6 Q. Just so I understand, an AM-15 and AR-15 are  
7 essentially the same thing, do I have that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'm going to have you take a look at one of these  
10 lower receivers.

11 THE COURT: If I can ask?

12 MS. CAHOON: Sure.

13 THE COURT: You say the unit -- the item, as  
14 depicted here, is, quote, the lower receiver?

15 A. Yes, sir. Item A is what ATF refers to as the  
16 lower receiver.

17 THE COURT: And when whatever parts are put into  
18 it, what is it called then?

19 A. They still only refer to it as a lower receiver.

20 THE COURT: In other words, this shell or  
21 whatever, whatever term to use, it's a stripped or bare  
22 receiver or lower receiver, correct?

23 A. Yes, sir, with no parts they refer to it as a  
24 stripped or bare receiver.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And that's how, generally or

1 colloquially, it would be called; is that correct?

2 A. I'm sorry, sir?

3 THE COURT: That's how it generally or  
4 colloquially would be called when somebody's referring to  
5 what's depicted in Exhibit A with or without the parts?

6 A. Yes, sir, bare or stripped being synonomous, you  
7 could use either term, and the fact that it's referred to  
8 as a receiver is because ATF tells everybody that's  
9 licensed that's a receiver. So the industry adheres to  
10 that for fear of being prosecuted or sanctioned civilly.

11 Q. And I think, to that point, Mr. O'Kelly, if you  
12 take a look at Defense Exhibit G, are you familiar with  
13 that document?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What is that document?

16 THE COURT: Hold on one second, please.

17 MS. CAHOON: Sure.

18 THE COURT: Where's the sticker on that document?

19 MS. CAHOON: Upper right-hand corner, Your Honor,  
20 right after F3, I believe it also has the Government's  
21 Bates stamp number 93 if that's helpful.

22 THE COURT: One minute, please.

23 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 BY MS. CAHOON:

25 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, I believe I was asking you to tell

1 us what this document is.

2 A. This is a copy of an invoice from Jaqua,  
3 J-A-Q-U-A, I don't know how you pronounce the name, a gun  
4 company. It's an invoice for a number of Anderson stripped  
5 lowers, stripped lower receivers which ironically they  
6 refer to as AR-15s, even though that's not what the items  
7 are marked on them.

8 Q. But this receipt does identify to them as  
9 stripped lower receivers, right?

10 A. Yes.

11 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, may I approach?

12 THE COURT: Of course. And, again, you have  
13 standing permission, okay?

14 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor, I appreciate  
15 that.

16 THE COURT: I appreciate the courtesy but --

17 BY MS. CAHOON:

18 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, I'm going to show you Government's  
19 Exhibit 2.

20 THE COURT: Is that in the book?

21 MS. CAHOON: It's a physical exhibit from the  
22 government, Your Honor. This is --

23 THE COURT: Of course it wouldn't be in the book.

24 BY MS. CAHOON:

25 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, could you tell us what that item is

1 I just handed to you, please?

2 A. Anderson Manufacturing AR-15 lower.

3 THE COURT: May I see it, please? This is --  
4 this is what's in Exhibit A?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 MR. VANN: Your Honor, for classification, the  
7 government has no objection, and that's been marked as  
8 Government's Exhibit 2.

9 THE COURT: Okay, that's fine. Here you go.

10 BY MS. CAHOON:

11 Q. So Mr. O'Kelly, as Judge Carr just astutely  
12 noted, is that item you're holding, Government's Exhibit 2,  
13 is that the same lower receiver that we talked about in  
14 Defense Exhibit A in that photographs?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 THE COURT: Does that have a serial number on it?

17 A. Yes, sir, it has an eight digit serial number  
18 right here, it's stamped (indicating).

19 THE COURT: Couldn't actually see it for lack of  
20 contrast, but I could feel the -- okay, and that's --  
21 that -- that stamping to that particular item itself, and  
22 only that item, is unique, right, there's no -- that serial  
23 number is only on that item, or is it on other parts --  
24 would there be other parts of the weapon into which that  
25 item would be put? You see what I'm saying? I'm just

1     curious as to how the serialization works.

2     A.           Yes, sir. According to 18 U.S. Code 923(i), if a  
3     licensed manufacturer manufactures a, quote, receiver, they  
4     are compelled to put a serial number on it because ATF  
5     regulates licensees. They tell licensees if you make one  
6     of this item, we call it a receiver so you had better put a  
7     serial number on it. So they do it to avoid criminal and  
8     civil sanctions. So for that reason, this piece does have  
9     a serial number, no other part of the firearm is required  
10    to have a serial number.

11               And to your other question, yes, this is for the  
12    purpose of containing some of the parts of the firearm.

13               THE COURT: Okay.

14    BY MS. CAHOON:

15    Q.           Now, you know I'm not a gun expert so this might  
16    be a silly question, but if I just have a stripped lower  
17    receiver, can I use that to fire a bullet at someone?

18    A.           No.

19    Q.           Can I injure someone with that lower receiver?

20    A.           Only if you hit them with it over the head or  
21    throw it at them.

22    Q.           I'd like to have you hang on to Government's  
23    Exhibit 2 for a minute, but I'd also like to have you look  
24    at what's been marked as Government's Exhibits 3 and 4,  
25    which are the completed AR-15.

1           So, now, Mr. O'Kelly, the Marshal Service has put  
2 a trigger lock on that firearm, so if you need it to be  
3 removed, you'll simply let me know.

4       A.           Okay.

5       Q.           Can you describe the item I've just handed to  
6 you, please?

7       A.           Yes, it's an Anderson Manufacturing AM-15 rifle,  
8 bearing serial number 14118616.

9       Q.           Is that a completed version of an AR-15 firearm  
10 of which a lower receiver would be a part?

11      A.           Yes.

12      Q.           Could you explain for all of us where the lower  
13 receiver is in that completed firearm?

14      A.           It's this part that my left hand is holding on  
15 to, and you'll see that this part is there, it's  
16 (indicating) --

17               THE COURT: First of all, if you can relate for  
18 the transcript what he's showing and have him -- I just  
19 asked Ms. Keegan (sic) if she can translate into words so  
20 the record shows when he uses the word "there" and "this  
21 part" and so forth -- why don't you do that because you're  
22 the person who knows?

23      A.           I apologize, Your Honor.

24               THE COURT: Let's start all over. Put it back  
25 together and --

1       A.           The part of this rifle which ATF considers the  
2       lower receiver is the part to which the pistol grip is  
3       attached, and the part to which this selector switch, which  
4       is visible on the left side, is installed. It's the part  
5       which you see at the center and the lower-most portion of  
6       the rifle. You can recognize this stripped receiver type  
7       item as being where I just described it.

8       Q.           And could you describe for us just for context  
9       where the upper receiver on the AR-15 would be?

10      A.           Yes. The AR-15 type firearm is one which has an  
11      upper and lower type receiver, and they hinge open. So  
12      having hinged this open by pulling out this captive pin,  
13      the part just above the lower that I'm holding onto with my  
14      right hand is the upper receiver to which the barrel is  
15      installed (indicating).

16               THE COURT: And I can't see that, so can you  
17      maybe even --

18      A.           Yes, Your Honor. The firearm hinges open when  
19      you pull this pin out, and this is what the government  
20      calls an upper (indicating). It's not controlled by  
21      federal law in any way. It's nothing, legally it's no more  
22      controlled than a lamp shade, for example. Whereas this is  
23      the part that we were looking at over here (indicating),  
24      and into which the hammer and firing components are  
25      installed, along with the shoulder stock, the pistol grip.



1     However, the bolt is installed in the upper as is the  
2     barrel.

3                 THE COURT:   And what does -- leave it like that  
4     for a moment, please, open.   What does the bolt do?   What's  
5     its function in a weapon?

6     A.           Its function support the rear of a cartridge  
7     during firing to contain the tens of thousands of pounds of  
8     gas pressure which occur to protect the shooter and  
9     bystanders from injury and force the gas to --

10                THE COURT:   That's what actually propels it along  
11    the barrel and out.   And when closed, they're basically  
12    proximate to each other, they fit into each other, the  
13    upper and lower receiver?

14    A.           No, sir.   There's no -- there's no insertion  
15    between the two.   They just merely mate, connect to each  
16    other.

17                THE COURT:   That's what I meant, they mate, they  
18    join.

19    A.           They join to each other, but one is not housed  
20    within the other.

21                THE COURT:   I understand.   But if you take one  
22    away from the other --

23    A.           Then you have no -- no ability to fire a  
24    cartridge.

25                THE COURT:   Both parts are as harmless as a lamp

1 shade?

2 A. Yes, sir, you can see how quickly (indicating) --

3 THE COURT: Even detach.

4 A. -- push out pin and the upper removes.

5 THE COURT: Okay. And then you refer to the  
6 selector switch, what does it do?

7 A. The selector switch has three positions, it's on,  
8 safe, semi auto. And on a machine gun it has a third, full  
9 auto, but of course this version only has safe and semi  
10 automatic.

11 THE COURT: I see.

12 A. It's the safety switch in other words.

13 THE COURT: I see, okay, sure, all right. Thank  
14 you.

15 BY MS. CAHOON:

16 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, I'd like to walk back just a minute,  
17 just for clarity sake. Let's just take a look at that  
18 lower receiver that I've given you, Government's Exhibit 2.  
19 Just looking at that stripped receiver, can you tell us  
20 what component pieces, if any, does that lower receiver  
21 house?

22 A. It houses the magazine release, it houses the  
23 selector switch, the safe -- semi automatic safety switch,  
24 it houses the trigger, the disconnecter, the hammer, the  
25 shoulder stock, the pistol grip, the magazine.

1           THE COURT:  What -- what is the, quote, firing  
2 mechanism?

3       A.           The firing mechanism is composed of the trigger,  
4 the sear, which connects the trigger to the hammer, and  
5 then the disconnecter which prevents full auto fire, and  
6 the selector, the safety fire selector switch.

7           THE COURT:  Okay.  And said trigger hammer and  
8 then?

9       A.           And sear and disconnecter.

10          THE COURT:  And I've heard the term sear before.

11       A.           Yes, sir.

12          THE COURT:  And it's my understanding that it is  
13 relatively easy to remove the sear; is that correct?

14       A.           It depends on the model of the firearm.

15          THE COURT:  Okay.

16       A.           In this case you would have to use a punch and  
17 push out certain pins, but once you remove that, the  
18 firearm doesn't work anymore.

19          THE COURT:  Okay.  But I realize this has nothing  
20 to do with this case, I'm just curious for general  
21 understanding.  Again, I've had other cases where weapons  
22 have been converted, or people have made, taken AR-15 parts  
23 and created an automatic mode capability.

24       A.           Yes.

25          THE COURT:  I've had testimony that was something

1     about removing or altering the sear or something, at least  
2     my impression, again, it was in relative terms. Somebody  
3     who's familiar with how to do it and has whatever equipment  
4     is needed can do that, and therefore, take a weapon like  
5     that constructed to be semi automatic, and that means you  
6     have to pull the trigger each time to fire a bullet, or no?  
7     What does -- what's the difference between semi automatic  
8     and automatic? And then tell me about the sear, and the  
9     extent to which the conversion process may or may not be  
10    something that's readily accomplished, and if so how is it  
11    done?

12    A.           Okay. I have to somewhat back pedal and clarify.  
13    This gun does not actually have a piece called a sear.

14                THE COURT: Okay.

15    A.           A sear is the part in the average firearm that  
16    connects between the trigger and the hammer. When you pull  
17    the trigger that pivots the sear, which then disengages  
18    from the hammer. The hammer is normally under spring  
19    pressure, and therefore, it moves forward and strikes the  
20    firing pin, initiates firing. This gun rather than having  
21    a part called a sear has the disconnecter. At any rate --

22                THE COURT: Let's forget about that, okay. Let's  
23    move on down the road.

24    A.           Semi automatic, sir, means one shot per trigger  
25    pull or trigger function.

1           THE COURT: I understand.

2    A.           Full automatic means more than one shot per  
3    trigger function, so if you pull the trigger, just per pull  
4    or per release you get more than one shot, that's  
5    considered a machine gun under federal law. And then as  
6    far as converting this to full auto, there are probably  
7    four or five different ways. The factory way would require  
8    drilling a hole, an extra hole through the receiver, and  
9    then installing a military part which this gun doesn't  
10   have. There are some clandestine ways to do it, one would  
11   be to possess a clandestinely-made gadget, some of which  
12   are legally registered, called a drop-in auto sear that  
13   replaces the part I just mentioned. And those are  
14   regulated as a machine gun by themselves under federal law.  
15   There are a couple of other items, like, called a  
16   lightening link or a swift link, those are also regulated  
17   as machine guns by themselves, even though all they are is  
18   a little piece of metal. You would have to install one of  
19   those, then you would get full automatic fire. But to  
20   possess one without having it registered through ATF is a  
21   federal felony. And then there's always somebody coming up  
22   with some new gadget. There are others that I won't bore  
23   you with, but any of those gadgets solely intended to  
24   convert this to fire full automatic are deemed to be  
25   machine guns by themselves and are felonies to make or

1 possess without prior ATF approval.

2 THE COURT: Unless you're in uniform?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Counsel, I'm going to admit  
5 that under Rule 404(b) just for contextual background --  
6 just so I understand --

7 MS. CAHOON: Certainly, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: -- more about all of this, but  
9 that's -- that obviously has nothing to do with this case.

10 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: In terms of what's at issue or that  
12 with which the defendants stand charged, it's simply  
13 contextual so I can get some understanding of, you know,  
14 what a receiver and upper and lower receivers are.

15 MS. CAHOON: Thank you for that clarification,  
16 your Honor.

17 THE COURT: No problem. I just wanted to let you  
18 know.

19 BY MS. CAHOON:

20 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, if we could take another look at the  
21 lower receiver we've been chatting about, again, just to  
22 clarify. So it was your testimony that it's just the  
23 hammer and the firing mechanism that are a part of the  
24 lower receiver, am I understanding that correctly?

25 A. Among the elements in the definition in the CFR,

1     yes.

2     Q.           And you're familiar with the CFR?

3     A.           Yes.

4     Q.           Why are you familiar with the C --

5     A.           I teach it.

6     Q.           And I assume -- well, I'll just ask you, is the  
7     part of the CFR, the part that you teach, the part that  
8     regulates firearms?

9     A.           Yes.

10    Q.           And so since you mentioned that definition, if we  
11    look at 478.11, what relevance does that definition have to  
12    your teaching about firearms?

13    A.           Well, under the Gun Control Act there are four  
14    definitions of a firearm. When you look it up, it looks  
15    like one definition, it's one paragraph, but in that  
16    paragraph there are four clauses. Each one describes a  
17    different category of firearms. The first of which is any  
18    weapon which expels a projectile by the action of an  
19    explosive such as this rifle; the second of which is the  
20    frame or receiver of any of the above firearms; the third  
21    being any silencer; the fourth being any destructive  
22    device.

23                So then that begs the question, okay, any frame  
24    or receiver of a firearm is a firearm. What's the  
25    definition of a frame or receiver, how do I know if this

1 item counts or that item counts? So to find that  
2 definition you go to Chapter 27 of the CFR 478.11, and it  
3 says that part, singular, which houses the hammer, comma,  
4 bolt or breechblock, comma -- and if I can pause right  
5 there -- it says bolt or breechblock because every firearm,  
6 depending on how it was designed, has either a bolt or a  
7 breechblock, they both perform the same function. Some  
8 guns have a bolt, some have a breechblock. After that  
9 comma, firing mechanism, comma, I'm sorry, and firing  
10 mechanism. It says the word and, and then it says and  
11 which is usually threaded at its forward portion to receive  
12 the barrel period.

13 THE COURT: Counsel, I'm willing to accept the  
14 proposition, subject to hearing from the government, that  
15 if that definition is, in fact, what is controlling, then  
16 obviously all three of those components, at least viewed as  
17 he's viewing them, are not present.

18 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor. And to  
19 clarify -- I'm sorry.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

21 MS. CAHOON: I was just going to clarify that  
22 there are actually four component pieces, which I'm just  
23 going to walk through for clarify.

24 THE COURT: I understand this weapon has a bolt,  
25 above -- firing mechanism and hammer.



1 BY MS. CAHOON:

2 Q. And Mr. O'Kelly, perhaps you can tell us what  
3 that fourth component of the definition is from your  
4 teaching experience?

5 A. That fourth component is the phrase which says,  
6 and which is usually threaded at its forward portion to  
7 receive the barrel. And when I teach it, I criticize it to  
8 some degree by saying that, in my opinion, it's poorly  
9 worded. It's clear that what they're referring to is that  
10 which is a receiver is also the part which receives a  
11 barrel, comma, usually it's threaded in order to do that  
12 because the part of a firearm which receives the barrel,  
13 sometimes a barrel is threaded in, depending on the model,  
14 it screws in, in other words. Some of them are press fit  
15 in using a machine that just forces the two together using  
16 friction. And some use a pin, insert one in the other,  
17 drive a cross pin in to hold it in place. They're not  
18 always threaded. That's why this definition, in my  
19 opinion, says usually threaded, but rather than saying  
20 first that it receives the barrel and then the fact that  
21 it's usually threaded, why that matters, is ironic, but the  
22 fourth element, in short, is that it's the part which  
23 receives the barrel.

24 Q. And which of those four components are present in  
25 an Anderson lower receiver?

1 A. Only two.

2 Q. Which two again, for clarity?

3 A. It houses the hammer, and it houses the firing  
4 mechanism.

5 Q. And is the firing mechanism the part of a gun  
6 that actually makes a bullet be projected out?

7 A. That, along with the hammer. It requires the  
8 hammer, and the hammer requires the firing mechanism. They  
9 have to work in unison, so yes.

10 Q. What part of an AR-15 would house the bolt and  
11 breechblock and would include the area where the barrel is  
12 threaded or inserted?

13 A. That's the part that is called the upper by ATF  
14 and the gun industry which is unregulated.

15 Q. If I could have you take what's been marked as  
16 Government's Exhibit 4, which is the completed AR-15 I've  
17 given you previously, it's just the upper portion of that.  
18 Could you show all of us where the bolts or breechblock  
19 would be housed in this firearm?

20 A. Once you hinge the firearm open, pull out the  
21 other pin, lay the lower unit aside, what I'm holding is  
22 the barrel, and the rear portion of this barrel upper is --  
23 this rear 6 or 7 inches of this (indicating) is what's  
24 called the upper. And pulling slightly rear on the  
25 charging handle I'm removing what's called the bolt carrier

1 group. The forward two-and-a-half inches or so of this  
2 which moves in and out of the bolt carrier, is the bolt  
3 itself, the part that my left hand is grasping. The  
4 biggest rear part, this is the bolt carrier, but this is  
5 the bolt (indicating).

6 THE COURT: I can't see it. I'm sorry, I can't  
7 see it.

8 A. This is the bolt, this short piece which moves  
9 back and forth, this is the bolt (indicating), and this  
10 part called the bolt carrier, which carries it back and  
11 forth inside this upper -- inside here, it moves back and  
12 forth.

13 Q. And Mr. O'Kelly, so that we understand, what is  
14 the job of a breechblock inside of an AR-15, what does it  
15 do?

16 A. The bolt's job is to feed and chamber a  
17 cartridge. Every time you pull the trigger, of course, the  
18 explosion causes the bolt carrier to go to the rear,  
19 extract and eject the empty case or shell, whatever you  
20 want to call it. And then a spring drives this bolt  
21 carrier back forward, which feeds another cartridge from  
22 the magazine, pushes it into the chamber of the rifle, and  
23 then these little pins on the front of the bolt enter  
24 matching grooves, turn to some radius and lock it in place,  
25 so that when you fire the next shot, that roughly

1 50,000 pounds of pressure per square inch, is safely  
2 contained and force all the pressure down the barrel and  
3 away from the shooter.

4 Q. I believe you said the barrel is also threaded  
5 through the upper receiver; is that correct?

6 A. On an AR-15 the barrel is threaded in, yes.

7 Q. Can you please show us where that barrel is  
8 threaded?

9 A. You would need a wrench to take it apart, but  
10 it's where they meet right here at the front end of the  
11 upper, at the rear end of the barrel. It's the --  
12 depending on the design, it's threaded in or using various  
13 methods of connection. They're not always threaded.

14 Q. If I have just a lower receiver that you've been  
15 describing here and then I'm able to acquire the other  
16 component pieces, could I put together a firearm in a  
17 minute or two?

18 A. No, not in a minute or two, but probably in 30  
19 minutes, 15 minutes, depending on your skill level.

20 Q. Would I need tools, or could I simply do it with  
21 my hands snapping it together?

22 A. You would need at least the tool required to  
23 attach the barrel to the upper. You would need, depending  
24 on which tool you have, you may be able to use that same  
25 tool to attach the stock to the lower, and you would need

1     some sort of a wrench or screwdriver to attach the pistol  
2     grip to the lower, but they make a combination tool which  
3     does all of those things. So with that one tool, you could  
4     assemble the rifle in a few minutes.

5     Q.           So it sounds like we would need some specialized  
6     training and some sort of a special tool, do I have that  
7     correct, or at least a tool --

8     A.           Yes.

9     Q.           -- beyond my own hand?

10    A.           Yes.

11                THE COURT: If I may, again, it's just sort of  
12    general understanding, I'm just curious, it's my  
13    understanding, at least in military use, in order for a  
14    weapon to be -- maintain sufficiency, the M-16, it has to  
15    be disassembled and cleaned from time to time; is that  
16    right?

17    A.           Yes, Your Honor.

18                THE COURT: Otherwise you can have problems with  
19    jamming or malfunctioning?

20    A.           Yes, sir, as dirt accumulates in the rifle, and  
21    as the lubricant dissipates, you get a lot more friction, a  
22    lot less clearance, and you're going to have stoppage  
23    unless you clean it and lubricate it.

24                THE COURT: And I realize once -- again, it's not  
25    at issue in this case at all, but if someone just walked

1     into a gun store and bought one of those things without  
2     military or other sort of training, might or might not be  
3     able to do all of that, who would know, right?

4     A.           Right.  If you -- if you have no prior training  
5     or knowledge of these, it doesn't have any instructions  
6     printed on, it you're going to need some sort of guidance.

7                 THE COURT:  It's not a moment or two to take it  
8     apart, but someone who's had the training and experience  
9     can do so, and has to basically to maintain the thing --

10    A.           Yes, sir.

11                 THE COURT:  -- okay, if he wants to use it, or  
12    she wants to use it.  Go ahead, Ms. Keegan (sic).

13                 MS. CAHOON:  Ms. Cahoon.  Thank you, Your Honor.

14    BY MS. CAHOON:

15    Q.           Mr. O'Kelly, you were explaining a little bit  
16    about the lower receiver for the Anderson.  If you know,  
17    are there any guns that have receivers that would satisfy  
18    this four-part definition, or do they all suffer from the  
19    same problem that this lower receiver suffers from?

20    A.           There are an unbelievable number of guns on the  
21    market --

22                 THE COURT:  I couldn't hear your answer.

23    A.           There are an unbelievable number of guns on the  
24    market which have this same situation.

25    Q.           But are there any receivers that satisfy this

1 definition?

2 A. There are some.

3 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, you -- you already identified that  
4 you had looked through the materials, the receipts?

5 THE COURT: Ms. Keegan (sic), if I may,  
6 because -- if -- if any of you do want to object, please  
7 object to my questions in this regard. If I heard you  
8 correctly, and tell me if I didn't, because her question to  
9 you was is there any component of a firearm -- I'm  
10 rephrasing, why don't you read her question back?

11 Q. I think my --

12 THE COURT: I want Angela to read the question  
13 back, please.

14 (Whereupon the court reporter read back the  
15 previous question.)

16 THE COURT: And your answer was?

17 A. Yes, there are some firearms on the market which  
18 have a part which does satisfy all four elements of the  
19 CFR's definition of a receiver. Those would be most  
20 pump-action firearms, most lever-action firearms, most  
21 revolvers, balling (phonetic) block type firearms, rolling  
22 block type firearms, some bolt action firearms.

23 THE COURT: But pistols that aren't revolvers,  
24 many, if not most, models of a rifle or whatever would have  
25 a dual assembly of this sort in them rather than a -- a

1 single and/or singly housed component that contains all  
2 four parts, is that -- is my paraphrase correct?

3 A. There are several firearms in the market which  
4 have an upper, what's called an upper and a lower, such as  
5 the H&K series, the Tommy gun type firearms, Oozies, and of  
6 those, just those examples, the upper performs one or two  
7 of these four functions; the lower performs the other two  
8 or three; and, therefore, they don't have a part which  
9 satisfies the definition of a receiver within the CFR. For  
10 instance, semi-automatic pistols, the kind the police  
11 officers carry, Glocks, Berettas, Colts, Smith & Wessons,  
12 you name it, 90 some percent of those do not have a part  
13 which has more than one of these four elements in it and,  
14 therefore, don't qualify, according to the definition in  
15 the CFR, yet for decades ATF has insisted, well, yes, they  
16 do. All you have to do is look at the definition and look  
17 at the part and you see, well, I'm not sure what you're  
18 looking at, but, no, they don't.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

20 BY MS. CAHOON:

21 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, since you bring it up, are there  
22 other inconsistencies you've noticed in your professional  
23 experience the way ATF has internally thought about  
24 firearms and their component pieces based on how the Code  
25 of Federal Regulations defines those items?



1       A.           They don't all fall within the Code of Federal  
2 Regulations issues. Sometimes they contradict themselves  
3 as to how they rule concerning the installation of certain  
4 features on firearms. Sometimes they are in contradiction  
5 of U.S. Code.

6       Q.           So as an example, could you describe for us how  
7 the ATF internally conceives the receivers in an AR-15  
8 versus an AFL (sic) type rifle?

9                   THE COURT: What's an AFL?

10                  MS. CAHOON: Or excuse me, FAL.

11                  THE COURT: What's an FAL?

12       A.           The FAL is a classical design rifle, it was the  
13 military rifle for dozens of countries in the '50s, '60s  
14 and '70s around the world. And it's somewhat similar to an  
15 AR-15. It has a pistol grip, you know, there are  
16 semi-automatic versions of it, full-automatic versions of  
17 it, and it has an upper and a lower, just like the AR-15  
18 does, Your Honor. And the lower of an FAL, just like an  
19 AR-15, houses the hammer and the firing mechanism, whereas  
20 the upper houses the bolt and receives the barrel.

21                  The irony is, though, that ATF considers the  
22 upper of that firearm to be the receiver and the lower to  
23 be nothing, in direct opposite of what they consider with  
24 an AR-15, the lower is the firearm and the upper's nothing.

25                  THE COURT: In other words, what -- in terms of

1     functionality, in terms of how it helps the firearm  
2     function as such, the gun fire as such, the weapon function  
3     as such, to get that bullet out there, with regard to which  
4     the FAL, if I understood correctly, rifle, what ATF  
5     designates the receiver is the upper portion, which is not  
6     designated as such in the AM-15?

7     A.           Correct.

8                 THE COURT:   Okay, and vice versa?

9     A.           Yes, sir.

10                MS. CAHOON:   Your Honor, if I could just a  
11     moment, I'd like to confer with my colleagues before I  
12     conclude?

13                THE COURT:   Sure.

14                MS. CAHOON:   Thank you.   Mr. Weldon, will you  
15     want that weapon up there?   If so, fine.

16                MR. WELDON:   We may as well leave it up there,  
17     it's still locked.

18                THE COURT:   Even if it weren't, I wouldn't know  
19     how to use it.

20                MR. WELDON:   Fair enough.

21                THE COURT:   And I couldn't see where I was  
22     pointing it either, as you know.

23     BY MS. CAHOON:

24     Q.           Mr. O'Kelly, before I conclude, do you think  
25     there would be any value in having the Marshal Service come

1 and take that lock off so you could show The Judge in  
2 detail how those pieces work together?

3 THE COURT: I assume what happens is you -- if  
4 the lock were off, you pull the trigger, and if there were  
5 a projectile in there it would head on out, right?

6 A. I can probably quickly do it without the lock  
7 being removed. This -- this being the hammer (indicating),  
8 Your Honor, you can see it's in the under tension, it's  
9 cocked to the rear. If you were to pull the trigger, it  
10 would move forward about -- and be pointing vertically.  
11 And when it was in that vertical position, it would strike  
12 right here, which is the rear of the firing pin  
13 (indicating).

14 THE COURT: The rear of the cartridge --

15 A. The rear of the firing pin right here, and then  
16 the tip of the firing pin would hit the cartridge  
17 (indicating).

18 THE COURT: The cartridge?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: And cause explosion and whatever you  
21 call it and cause the bullet to go out -- head on out.  
22 Okay.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: I don't think it's necessary to do  
25 that, Ms. Keegan (sic), that's fine.

1 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 BY MS. CAHOON:

3 Q. Just to close here, Mr. O'Kelly, the stripped  
4 lower receiver, which was Government's Exhibit 2, we can  
5 agree that that includes only two of the four component  
6 pieces from the CFR definition, correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 THE COURT: And I would agree with that.

9 BY MS. CAHOON:

10 Q. It's also my understanding, just so it's clear,  
11 the lower receiver, in and of itself, isn't capable of  
12 firing a bullet or hurting anyone unless it's a --

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And I'm sorry, just for the sake of the record,  
15 if you'll look at Defense Exhibit B, which is in that  
16 exhibit book there in front of you --

17 THE COURT: What --

18 BY MS. CAHOON:

19 Q. I'm sorry, Defense Exhibit B, as in boy.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Are you familiar with that image?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And could you please tell us what it is?

24 A. It's an AR-15 type rifle which is hinged open, I  
25 can't see from the photograph any markings to determine who

1     made it.

2     Q.           Is this AR-15 substantially similar to the AR-15  
3     you've been holding as Government's Exhibits 3 and 4?

4     A.           The only obvious difference is the one in the  
5     photograph has an optical sight and an iron front sight on  
6     it, whereas this one has no sights, otherwise they're  
7     essentially the same.

8     Q.           Same essential component pieces?

9     A.           Yes.

10    Q.           Thank you so much.

11                THE COURT: I do have one question. Again, it  
12    is, I think, pertinent, and, therefore, if you object say  
13    so.

14                With regard to the units which bring the  
15    defendants here, and the government, the 50 units which the  
16    government claims are receivers and, therefore, firearms  
17    and so forth, if I understand correctly, are those units,  
18    those precise units, are they the same as -- in other  
19    words, if I bought -- if I had an M-16 or if I had an  
20    AR-15, okay, another manufacturer --

21    A.           Yes, sir.

22                THE COURT: -- can I -- could I take what is at  
23    issue here and put it into one of those weapons, some, all,  
24    a few or none?

25    A.           All. They're all clones, whether -- whether the

1 parts you have are made by Colt, Bushmaster, Anderson or  
2 300 others I could that name, they all fit because they're  
3 made from the same blueprints, they're clones from each  
4 other, other than minor cosmetic differences and/or the  
5 type of shoulder stock or sites.

6 THE COURT: So I wouldn't need all the other  
7 components of the Anderson that go into the Anderson  
8 firearm from Anderson, wouldn't have to go to Anderson and  
9 say give me everything else so I can make one of your  
10 weapons or whatever use --

11 A. No, sir, you could build it from Colt parts or  
12 Bushmaster parts.

13 Q. I think you were explaining to even if you did  
14 have all those component parts, you would need some skill  
15 and tools to put them into one operable firearm; is that  
16 correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. Thank you so much.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Is it Mr. Vann, did I get that  
20 correctly?

21 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor, it's Mr. Vann.

22 THE COURT: You're welcome to sit, stand,  
23 whatever's comfortable. It's your stage, go ahead and use  
24 it, counsel.

25 MR. VANN: I'll stand here, a couple of times I

1 will have to approach.

2 THE COURT: Of course. It's not necessary to  
3 ask. Has any judge told you no, you may not?

4 MR. VANN: I used to have to request to wander  
5 the courtroom because I tended to pace a lot.

6 THE COURT: Have you ever asked a judge to  
7 approach and he say no, stay where you are? That's why I  
8 dispense with that nice little courtesy, and it's  
9 traditional I know, but go ahead.

10 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. VANN:

13 Q. Good morning, Mr. O'Kelly. I want to talk about  
14 your experience and some of your background first.

15 THE COURT: I have a question.

16 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Tell me a little more about the guild  
18 and when was it -- and once again, I'm not sure this is  
19 relevant, but if you have any objection to it, say so. I'm  
20 just curious, when was it created?

21 A. 2011, sir.

22 THE COURT: And you have 12 staff members, but do  
23 you have members? In other words, if I were to call up and  
24 say I'd like to become a member of the guild, or is it sort  
25 of a closed -- is it like the old medieval guild where you

1 have to show a certain degree of -- you have to be  
2 qualified?

3 A. Yes, sir. You have to be highly qualified in  
4 some firearm-related area in order for us to consider  
5 putting you as one of our consultants. We have two medical  
6 doctors who are forensic pathologists, we have two firearm  
7 related attorneys. And as I said, former law enforcement  
8 people, all of whom have some facet of firearm expertise.

9 THE COURT: So it's not like an association or  
10 whatever I can just get a member slip and contribute my  
11 money --

12 A. No, sir.

13 THE COURT: -- help support it?

14 A. No, sir.

15 THE COURT: I gather that basically you keep the  
16 doors open, people employed, ultimately, but by doing what  
17 you're doing here today in a variety of other capacities  
18 and other venues and circumstances, is that right?

19 A. Yes, sir. We saw a need in law enforcement, the  
20 gun industry and the legal profession for years during my  
21 career. There just isn't a well-rounded knowledge of  
22 firearms out there. Law enforcement academies, they only  
23 teach their people how to shoot when they can shoot, but  
24 they don't teach them anything about firearms.

25 THE COURT: Where to put, how to pull?



1 A. Yes, sir, so we wanted to raise that bar.

2 THE COURT: And also obviously legal profession,  
3 here I am being called upon to make a pretty important  
4 decision, and obviously I didn't have a clue and you've  
5 given me plenty, so I'm just saying that's your job in that  
6 regard, and medical profession same sort of thing about  
7 what injuries that weapons can cause and so forth --

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: -- how to treat them?

10 A. If we get brought into a shooting or a homicide,  
11 sometimes the defense attorneys or prosecutors want an  
12 independent medical opinion on the --

13 THE COURT: Sort of the forensics of it, terminal  
14 ballistics?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: I interrupted, the forensics of it,  
17 how the -- how the bullet may have traveled or entered the  
18 body or perhaps even the velocity of which -- all of that  
19 sort of stuff?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Now I understand. Not so much  
22 treating but examining --

23 A. Yes.

24 THE COURT: -- and working backwards from what  
25 you see to other data that is pertinent, whatever the

1 situation is you've been called to testify about?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: Okay. How did it come to be formed?

4 I'm just curious. How did --

5 A. During 34 years in law enforcement I constantly  
6 was approached by other law enforcement people and lawyers  
7 and firearm industry people asking questions that you would  
8 think they would have already been taught or would have  
9 learned on their own. And I just saw there was an extreme  
10 need for the bar to be raised concerning firearm knowledge  
11 in those three industries.

12 THE COURT: You're the founder?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Good enough. Go ahead, Mr. Vann.

15 Thank you.

16 BY MR. VANN:

17 Q. Let's talk about some of the teaching you do or  
18 have done in the past. You were an instructor at FLETC; is  
19 that correct?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: An instructor where?

22 MR. VANN: At FLETC. I'm going to have him  
23 describe that.

24 BY MR. VANN:

25 Q. I'm referring to it as FLETC, what is that, can

1     you say what the acronym stands for?

2     A.             Stands for Federal Law Enforcement Training  
3     Center, which is where ATF National Academy is housed,  
4     along with many other federal law enforcement academies.

5     Q.             Department of Homeland Security's down there; is  
6     that correct.

7     A.             I can't swear to that, but I think they are. I  
8     think pretty much everybody except FBI and DEA are there.

9                    THE COURT: Is that Glynco? I've heard marshals  
10    talk rather disparaging about some aspects of that, but go  
11    ahead.

12   BY MR. VANN:

13   Q.             Where is that located?

14   A.             It's in Brunswick, Georgia, which is referred to  
15    as Glynco because it's in Glynn County, Georgia.

16   Q.             And what kind of things did you teach while at  
17    FLETC?

18   A.             I'm sorry?

19   Q.             What kind of things did you teach, what subjects?

20   A.             I, at various times, was a range instructor, and  
21    many of these duties overlapped. I was a range instructor,  
22    I was physical control techniques instructor, an  
23    interviewing instructor, I ran the ATF's undercover school  
24    for two years. And during nearly the entire  
25    five-and-a-half years I was the chief firearm tech

1 instructor.

2 Q. What would that involve?

3 A. Teaching the basic and advanced classes on  
4 firearm classification, ID, technology.

5 Q. Did you teach the AR-15?

6 A. I don't recall whether ATF had adopted using the  
7 AR-15 as a tactical weapon yet when I was there.

8 Q. But if you're teaching -- I'm sorry?

9 A. But I taught various issues concerning the AR-15,  
10 yes.

11 Q. So you taught the agents that the AR-15 had no  
12 receiver?

13 A. No, I did not. That would have been seriously  
14 frowned upon by the agency.

15 Q. But you're stating that it's clear the AR-15 has  
16 no receiver, correct?

17 A. That's correct. There are a number of firearms  
18 on the market that have no receiver according to the CFR.

19 Q. Was it clear to you then when you were teaching  
20 at Glynco?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And yet you didn't do it, again, if it's clear  
23 under the statute and under the regulations, why wouldn't  
24 you have stated this firearm has no receiver?

25 A. It wasn't allowed.

1 THE COURT: Had you raised the issue within --

2 A. No.

3 THE COURT: -- in the institute or elsewhere in  
4 the ATF? Did you say, hey, time out guys, you're out there  
5 charging people, potentially charging people, at least have  
6 charged -- some day you may charge someone with the lower  
7 receiver as possessing a receiver, and then because the  
8 information that you are causing me to give the agents and  
9 other law enforcement officers is a misdefinition of that  
10 term?

11 A. No, sir, I wasn't allowed to. I co-wrote the  
12 lesson plans that are still taught there today, myself and  
13 about five other people co-wrote those in 1998, and at that  
14 time I voiced my concerns to headquarters to a man named  
15 Richard Turner who is still in charge of the interstate  
16 Nexus program. And his response to me was, Dan, there are  
17 things that are need to know and there are things that are  
18 nice to know. That's all nice to know, and we're not going  
19 to teach that, and it wasn't taught. I could only teach  
20 what was approved by headquarters.

21 Q. When did that conversation occur?

22 A. 1998.

23 Q. You recall a conversation with Richard Turner in  
24 1998 were he talked about need to know versus nice to know?

25 A. I recall conversations way prior to that, yes,

1     sir.

2     Q.           And have you brought this up at any time in the  
3     past?  You've testified on this issue before, correct?

4     A.           Yes.

5     Q.           Have you brought this up at any time in the past?

6     A.           Yes, if you'll Google a declaration I wrote for a  
7     federal civil suit in San Diego in about 2015, you'll see  
8     where I quoted it then.

9     Q.           Okay.  And you wrote a manual then --

10                THE COURT:  If I may interrupt, I'm sorry.  And  
11     to your knowledge -- the reason I ask, counsel, I don't  
12     think any of you cited a case directly on point, and  
13     Melissa and I have not, primarily she, has not yet to  
14     undertake the research, which I suspect may also turn the  
15     fact that there's no case directly on point.  You say civil  
16     suit, was it federal civil suit?

17     A.           Yes, sir.

18                THE COURT:  And do you know -- do you -- do you  
19     recall the name of it?

20     A.           Yes, sir.  It was Lycurgan, L-Y-C-U-R-G-A-N.  It  
21     was against the then acting or director of ATF  B. Todd  
22     Jones, and --

23                THE COURT:  How do you spell the first name?

24     A.           Well, his name was B, the initial B, period, Todd  
25     Jones is the name he went by.  He was either acting or

1 full-fledged director at the time, I don't recall. But a  
2 company in San Diego had been served a search warrant --

3 THE COURT: I'm not -- I was more interested so  
4 it might be possible to look up to see if that Court  
5 reached any conclusion or decision on that issue. Probably  
6 not, but you've given us enough information that somebody  
7 who knows the mechanics, as I and other people do, of how  
8 to get that information out of these machines as well as  
9 you know, or maybe not as well, but certainly as you know  
10 the mechanics and how those things function, we'll find  
11 out.

12 A. Yes, sir. If you just Google O'Kelly declaration  
13 armorer you'll see it come right up.

14 THE COURT: I'm interested in whether or not  
15 anything another Court anywhere any time had to pronounce  
16 the issue that is directly in front of me.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Vann. Thank you.

19 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 BY MR. VANN:

21 Q. We're going to come back to that in a second.  
22 Talk about your nexus training. Explain to me what you  
23 mean by nexus. First of all, can you spell it for the  
24 court reporter, and tell me what it is?

25 A. Nexus, N-E-X-U-S. The word nexus just means a

1 connection. There is an element which must be proven in  
2 many federal gun prosecutions and ammunition prosecutions.  
3 And that element is that the gun or ammunition affected  
4 interstate or foreign commerce. In order for the  
5 government to prove that element, you have to establish who  
6 made the firearm or ammunition, and, therefore, where they  
7 made it. And if it was made outside the state or country,  
8 where it's being prosecuted, then there's been judicial  
9 notice given that that item has affected interstate or  
10 foreign commerce, and you have established an interstate  
11 nexus because, of course I don't have to tell this Court,  
12 but a Court has -- apparently these gun prosecutions have  
13 to affect two or more states, otherwise it's a state  
14 jurisdictional issue.

15 Q. Actually that's under the portion of traveled in.  
16 Isn't it not necessarily in or affecting, it's the traveled  
17 in portion, you show that it actually crossed state lines?

18 A. The nexus is the fact that it traveled in, and  
19 having done so it has affected --

20 Q. But those are two separate things in the statute,  
21 you're aware of that, correct?

22 THE COURT: Counsel, it would be my understanding  
23 that a firearm manufactured in Ohio will be used in the way  
24 things are going these days, in a convenience store robbery  
25 here which everything -- the firearm was fabricated in



1 Ohio, nonetheless I would have jurisdiction over that  
2 robbery, I've been learning that lately. I get your point.

3 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 BY MR. VANN:

5 Q. And how do you go about doing that, proving the  
6 traveling of the firearm?

7 A. You look at the markings on the firearm and  
8 determine who is credited with having made it. You then  
9 either refer to a vetted -- at the time when I was an agent  
10 I would refer to a database which ATF maintains which has  
11 vetted records since they issue the licensure to all  
12 manufacturers, importers, and dealers as to where that  
13 company actually made that item, did they actually make it  
14 in-house, or did they outsource it to a vendor. Having  
15 established where it was actually made, then you can  
16 testify to whether or not it affected interstate commerce.

17 Q. Okay. And are you looking at the general  
18 firearm, or the specific firearm that you've been given?

19 A. You would look at the specific firearm being  
20 prosecuted in that case.

21 Q. And how do you know -- what marking is on that  
22 firearm that identifies it different than one that looks  
23 like it?

24 A. The company -- well, under the Gun Control Act,  
25 under 921 Title 18, any firearm manufactured by a licensed

1 manufacturer, has to bear five markings, that being the  
2 manufacturer's company name, the city and state where they  
3 maintain their business records, the make, the model, and  
4 the serial -- oh, I'm sorry, the caliber, model and serial  
5 number.

6 Q. And where is the serial number placed on the  
7 firearm?

8 A. It's required to be on the part that ATF  
9 considers to be a receiver.

10 Q. Okay. Let me ask you specifically what the  
11 statute says. Does the statute say that it's on the part  
12 that ATF considers to be the receiver, or does it say the  
13 manufacturer must put the serial number on the receiver?

14 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, objection. He's asking  
15 for a legal conclusion.

16 THE COURT: Well, the statute is the statute. If  
17 you want to recite and quote it -- I think you're actually  
18 asking for him to testify under a matter of law, and the  
19 law is what it is. I get your point, counsel, and I'm sure  
20 I'll hear from you further on it.

21 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 BY MR. VANN:

23 Q. So you take the serial number that's on the  
24 receiver, correct?

25 A. You take the serial number off the firearm that

1 was placed there by the manufacturer, where ATF told them  
2 they had to put it.

3 Q. Okay. Does -- are you familiar with the Gun  
4 Control Act?

5 A. Quite a bit.

6 Q. You've taught it, correct?

7 A. I don't teach the entire Gun Control Act, no.

8 Q. You've taught portions of it?

9 A. Portions.

10 Q. Have you taught nexus training?

11 A. I have.

12 Q. On the nexus training do you teach agents to look  
13 on the receiver for the serial number?

14 A. I teach agents that you can find the serial  
15 number on the part which ATF calls a receiver. This gun  
16 doesn't have a receiver, but ATF insists that one part of  
17 it is a receiver because they can't accept the fact that  
18 their definition is flawed. And on firearms like this, no  
19 part is a receiver, according to their own definition.  
20 Therefore, they summarily choose a part, tell licensed  
21 manufacturers to put a number there, or importers, because  
22 if they don't then they're going to be prosecuted or  
23 civilly sanctioned. And, therefore, when you encounter  
24 that firearm, that's where you're going to find the serial  
25 number, not because it satisfies the definition, but that's

1     because that's where ATF told them put it.

2     Q.           Is there a requirement --

3                 THE COURT: Give me one moment, counsel. Go  
4     ahead, counsel. I apologize for interrupting.

5                 MR. VANN: No problem, Your Honor. Thank you.

6     BY MR. VANN:

7     Q.           If you're teaching a new agent how to do nexus  
8     training, where would you tell him to look on an AR-15 in  
9     order to find a serial number?

10    A.           I would tell them to look on the lower because  
11    that's where ATF makes manufacturers put it.

12    Q.           Tell me -- or are you aware of any provision that  
13    requires a manufacturer to submit a firearm to ATF before  
14    it can be produced?

15    A.           Yes.

16    Q.           Where is that provision?

17    A.           There isn't a provision. It's a common sense  
18    practice by a manufacturer to make sure that the part that  
19    he's putting the serial number on is in agreement with  
20    their opinions.

21    Q.           Mr. O'Kelly, I'm being very specific with my  
22    questions, I think it's going to be easier.

23                 Is there a provision that requires a manufacturer  
24    to submit a firearm, a new firearm, to the ATF before it  
25    can be manufactured?

1 A. I'm not familiar with one.

2 Q. There isn't one, is there?

3 A. I don't believe so.

4 Q. In fact --

5 THE COURT: Well, he said he doesn't believe so.  
6 You know one way or the other?

7 A. I cannot cite one, Your Honor. I don't know of  
8 one that's coming to mind.

9 THE COURT: Once again, counsel, if it's a  
10 vacuum, you'll let me know, if you or somebody else let me  
11 know. I think getting to the point, again, where you're  
12 asking him to testify on a matter of law, and it is what it  
13 is.

14 MR. VANN: I understand, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: This witness has said he can't cite  
16 one, which means that as he sits here now he doesn't know.  
17 Go ahead.

18 BY MR. VANN:

19 Q. So where does Anderson Manufacturing place their  
20 serial number?

21 A. On the part referred to as the lower.

22 Q. Okay. And do you -- are you aware of Anderson  
23 Manufacturing ever reaching out to ATF and asking where  
24 they should place that serial number?

25 A. I'm not aware, no.

1 Q. Are you aware of, let's say, FNH ever reaching  
2 out to ATF asking them where to place a serial number on an  
3 AR?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Sig Sauer?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Smith and Wesson?

8 A. What I'm aware of is a letter from ATF stating  
9 that the lower is going to be considered the receiver, even  
10 though it doesn't have all the elements in it --

11 Q. Okay. And when was that letter?

12 A. -- and that's what everybody goes by.

13 Q. And when was that letter?

14 A. Where or when?

15 Q. When?

16 A. In the 19 -- late '60s or early '70s. I've  
17 produced a copy of it for other attorneys in other similar  
18 cases, but I can't give you the exact date off the top of  
19 my head.

20 Q. And when was ATF formed?

21 A. ATF became its own bureau in 1972. Prior to that  
22 it was part of the IRS.

23 THE COURT: Counsel, excuse me. Ms. Keegan (sic)  
24 and Ms. Johnson, if you wish to have this witness provide  
25 you with a copy of that letter, and if you want to offer it

1 as an exhibit, subject to objection, once that happens I'll  
2 keep the record open for that.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 BY MR. VANN:

6 Q. Now, you frequently have said throughout your  
7 testimony that what ATF refers to as -- what does Anderson  
8 Manufacturing refer to as their receiver -- as their  
9 receiver?

10 A. What ATF tells them to.

11 Q. Okay. Again, ask you the same question, do you  
12 know if they've ever asked ATF for an opinion?

13 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, objection. This is  
14 asked and answered at this point.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 MR. VANN: Thank you.

17 BY MS. CAHOON:

18 Q. Do you know if Anderson Manufacturing has ever  
19 asked ATF which one is the receiver?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. So again, what is Anderson Manufacturing,  
22 to your knowledge --

23 THE COURT: Counsel, I understand your point. I  
24 will -- I understand you're challenging the statement what  
25 ATF has told him, okay, which is, I think, what you're

1 talking about.

2 BY MR. VANN:

3 Q. What does every other manufacturer call the  
4 receiver for the AR that they produce?

5 A. The lower because ATF tells them to.

6 MR. VANN: Your Honor, at this point I ask that  
7 he respond to the question. We've already addressed that.

8 THE COURT: I'm going to strike that reference  
9 to, quote, what the ATF tells them. If there is such a  
10 document, regulation, guidance, whatever, to which someone,  
11 A, can refer, and which ATF has otherwise made commonly  
12 available, that's one thing.

13 MR. VANN: Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And I understand that Mr. --  
15 Mr. O'Kelly, that's what you -- I gather you -- that's not  
16 what you taught agents because obviously you were required  
17 to say, point to the lower receiver, but I think the  
18 question is -- I just don't think there's a foundation for  
19 what ATF told, much less what, quote, was on Anderson's  
20 mind when it -- its designers said we better put the  
21 receiver there, the serial number there, so we don't, you  
22 know, get shut down for selling un-serialized weapons. I  
23 understand.

24 BY MR. VANN:

25 Q. And when you trace a firearm that's manufactured



1 by any licensed manufacturer, is there required to be their  
2 manufacturing information along with the serial number?

3 A. When you trace a firearm, is there required to  
4 be --

5 Q. Absolutely, it is a very disjointed question, I  
6 apologize for that.

7 If you pick up a firearm that you're going to  
8 trace and it comes from a licensed manufacturer, would you  
9 expect to find, in attempting to trace this firearm, the  
10 manufacturing information along with a unique serial  
11 number?

12 A. Yes.

13 THE COURT: Where -- I'm sorry, I'm curious --  
14 where would you find -- are you talking about -- I'm a  
15 little lost. What do you mean by manufacturing information  
16 and so forth? You lost me a little bit.

17 BY MR. VANN:

18 Q. Would you find the name of the manufacturer, the  
19 city and state where it was produced along with a unique  
20 serial number?

21 A. Would I, or where would I?

22 Q. Would you?

23 A. You would, yes.

24 Q. Okay. And where would it typically be located?

25 A. ATF has ruled that the serial number has to be on

1 the receiver.

2 Q. Let me ask you a question about ATF has ruled.

3 Is that in the regulation, or is that in the statute, or do  
4 you know?

5 A. 18 U.S.C. 9323(i) says, as I recall, if a  
6 licensed manufacturer makes a receiver, then the number has  
7 to be on the receiver.

8 Q. So that's --

9 A. But it's not in reverse. Just because you put a  
10 serial number on something doesn't make it a receiver.

11 Q. But that's in the statute, correct?

12 A. 18 U.S.C. 923(i) is.

13 Q. And if you were to pick up a firearm that had no  
14 markings, would you be able to trace that firearm?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Why not?

17 A. Because it takes a serial number to be able to  
18 identify that gun as being different from one exactly like  
19 it.

20 Q. Okay. Let me draw your attention to the AR  
21 sitting in front of you, the complete one, Government's  
22 Exhibit 3 and 4, I believe. Do you mind pulling the pins  
23 on that and separating the two units?

24 THE COURT: Give me a moment, please, Mr. Vann.

25 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: What was that citation again, 924(i)?

2 A. 923(i), Your Honor. I'm going by memory,  
3 hopefully I'm right.

4 THE COURT: I understand. No problem. Go ahead.

5 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 BY MR. VANN:

7 Q. I'll ask you to take Government's Exhibit 4 in  
8 your hand. And can you show this to The Court? Your  
9 Honor, Government Exhibit 4?

10 A. One moment, please.

11 Q. You're holding up both of them, just 4?

12 A. I'm sorry?

13 Q. Just 4, not 3 and 4, just 4.

14 A. Which is the --

15 Q. The upper.

16 THE COURT: Half a second. I'm sorry. Okay.

17 BY MR. VANN:

18 Q. And does that have the manufacturing information  
19 contained anywhere on the sample you're holding in your  
20 hand?

21 THE COURT: I'll take judicial notice that it  
22 would not; is that correct?

23 A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

24 THE COURT: Wouldn't be a -- would there be any  
25 firearm anywhere, that component would have a serial

1     number, the barrel -- I'll even call it the barrel where  
2     the upper is.

3     A.           There's no law against putting a serial number on  
4     every part of the firearm if a manufacturer so desires, but  
5     they're only required to put it on what ATF says is the  
6     receiver.

7     Q.           And since the serial number requirement -- are  
8     there any reports that are required to be kept as to upper  
9     receiver or barrels?

10    A.           ATF doesn't require any.

11    Q.           So if you found one that did have a serial  
12    number, would you know how to trace that if it just had a  
13    number?

14    A.           ATF's tracing center doesn't trace non-firearms.

15    Q.           It would be untraceable, wouldn't it?

16    A.           Then upper would be untraceable, yes. I mean,  
17    they could trace that serial number in conjunction with the  
18    manufacturer if that serial number -- let's say on a Glock,  
19    for instance, a Glock has the same serial number on the  
20    frame, what ATF calls the frame, and on the barrel, and on  
21    the slide, because in all other gun manufacturing countries  
22    in the world, none of them consider a frame to be a  
23    firearm. They consider a barrel to be a firearm, or a  
24    breechblock, or both, to be a firearm. Therefore, Glocks,  
25    being made in Austria, the barrels and the breechblock or

1 slide is serialized. And then if it's coming to the U.S.,  
2 they're, like, oh, yeah, that's going to America, put a  
3 number on that piece of plastic for those Americans too, so  
4 it has three numbers.

5           So if, to answer your question, you were going to  
6 try to trace the slide from a Glock that you found and you  
7 can determine, yes, it was made by Glock and here's the  
8 serial number, ABC123, you could trace that serial number,  
9 and what it would give you is the pedigree on the frame  
10 that that goes to since that's the part that ATF decides  
11 they want to control.

12 Q.           But it wouldn't necessarily be related because  
13 you could take that slide off and put it on another  
14 firearm?

15 A.           Correct.

16 Q.           Okay. So as it stands now, though, there's no  
17 records, that's untraceable, we know the one in front of  
18 you now has no manufacturer's mark and no serial number,  
19 correct?

20 A.           The upper does not, correct.

21 Q.           So can I buy that as a complete unit?

22 A.           Yes.

23 Q.           In fact, lots of people buy that as a complete  
24 unit now, correct?

25 A.           Yes.

1 Q. So I can -- do I go to a firearms dealer and buy  
2 that?

3 A. You can go to anyone who has possession of one  
4 and buy it.

5 Q. Can I go on the internet, order it, and have it  
6 sent to my house?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So that can show up, complete with the bolt, bolt  
9 carrier group, barrel, everything attached to it ready to  
10 go?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Now, tell me about the lower. Does that,  
13 as it stands right there, have a manufacturer's mark on it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Does it have a serial number on it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can I trace that firearm with the information  
18 that's present on the lower receiver of that firearm?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Your contention is that that is not a  
21 firearm receiver?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And therefore, that is not a firearm, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay. So earlier you talked with counsel that

1     you have to have some specialized training in order to  
2     assemble an AR, correct?

3     A.           Yes.

4     Q.           It's not just as simple as snapping it together  
5     like Legos?

6     A.           Correct.

7     Q.           In fact, you have to -- there are some special  
8     tools you might need. Could you get that training off,  
9     say, the internet?

10    A.           Probably.

11    Q.           Do a lot of people do that, put them together  
12    that way?

13                 MS. CAHOON: Objection.

14                 THE COURT: He said probably, so --

15                 MR. VANN: I'm fine with that, Your Honor.

16    BY MR. VANN:

17    Q.           But under your theory, that part's not  
18    controlled, correct, should not be controlled?

19    A.           The lower should not be controlled, according to  
20    ATF's own definition in the CFR, no.

21    Q.           At all?

22    A.           No.

23    Q.           So in fact, I wouldn't need a license to  
24    manufacture any of those pieces, correct?

25    A.           According to the sloppy way that they wrote the

1 definition in the CFR, no.

2 Q. So according to your theory, I can produce that,  
3 and then I can sell that on the internet, correct?

4 A. It's not my theory. All I did was read the CFR,  
5 just like you can read it, and that doesn't match it, so  
6 the answer is yes.

7 Q. According to your opinion, I then no longer need  
8 to control that piece at all?

9 MS. CAHOON: Objection. Your Honor, this is  
10 outside --

11 THE COURT: A little argumentative. Rephrase.

12 BY MR. VANN:

13 Q. Do me a favor, can you put that together for me?

14 A. Put what together, the rifle?

15 Q. The lower and the upper.

16 A. Sure.

17 MR. VANN: And, Your Honor, I think this is part  
18 of --

19 THE COURT: One moment, please, I'm making a  
20 note.

21 BY MR. VANN:

22 Q. Hold on, please. Mr. O'Kelly, not yet, please.  
23 Could you put it together now?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Is that's what's required to assemble the lower



1     that is uncontrolled and the upper that is uncontrolled?

2     A.           Snap upper to lower, yes.

3     Q.           So under your theory, I can order the top and  
4     have it sent to my house because we both agree that doesn't  
5     expel a projectile by means of explosive?

6     A.           Right, the upper can.

7     Q.           Would you say the upper's a firearm in and of  
8     itself?

9                 MS. CAHOON:  Objection.

10                THE COURT:  Overruled.  I did not hear the  
11     answer.

12     A.           The answer is it's not up for me to say, ATF  
13     decides what they think is a firearm or not.

14     Q.           You've given an opinion on what you consider the  
15     receiver, and you talked to The Court about your experience  
16     with firearms.  Would you classify, and you've also talked  
17     in your CV about classification of firearms, would you  
18     classify the upper as a firearm in and of itself?

19     A.           No.

20     Q.           Okay.  And the lower you say is not a firearm in  
21     and of itself?

22     A.           Correct.

23     Q.           So under your opinion, you could order the top,  
24     have it sent to your home, because it's not controlled,  
25     have the bottom sent to your house because it's not

1 controlled, and --

2 A. It is controlled, I didn't say it wasn't  
3 controlled.

4 Q. Under your theory it would not be controlled?

5 MS. CAHOON: Objection, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Let him --

7 A. My theory is not -- I don't have some theory that  
8 it's not controlled.

9 Q. Under your opinion --

10 A. I'm giving you my opinion that it doesn't match  
11 the four elements in the CFR, so, therefore, it shouldn't  
12 be controlled, because the CFR says only items which do  
13 match that definition should be controlled.

14 Q. Mr. O'Kelly --

15 A. This doesn't, just like my glasses don't match  
16 the CFR --

17 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, we understand that.

18 A. Well, that's not the way you worded it.

19 Q. Under your opinion, the lower portion complete  
20 should not be controlled, so the extent of the assembly  
21 required would be that you push two pins and you have an  
22 operable AR-15?

23 A. No, putting the upper and lower does not give you  
24 an operable AR-15, you have to install all the parts in the  
25 lower.

1 Q. If you have a complete lower, under your theory,  
2 excuse me, under your opinion, you have a complete lower,  
3 it's not controlled, cannot expel a projectile by means of  
4 explosive, and in your opinion it is also not the receiver  
5 of a firearm, it could then be shipped absolutely complete  
6 with the trigger, with the hammer, with the disconnecter,  
7 with the pistol grip and with the stock buffer tube, buffer  
8 spring, every piece attached to it, under your opinion it  
9 would not be controlled, correct?

10 A. You're going to have to repeat, you have a lot  
11 going on in that question.

12 THE COURT: Counsel, I believe your question is,  
13 and -- is that it would be lawful, in light of the  
14 regulation and its interpretation of the Gun Control Act,  
15 meaning both of those provisions, as you read them, for a  
16 purchaser to order, and for a manufacturer to ship in  
17 interstate commerce, unit, a connected unit, an assembled  
18 unit that included the upper and lower receiver because the  
19 regulation refers to the receiver, and there is no receiver  
20 per the regulation in such a unit or shipment? If my  
21 question didn't make sense, say so.

22 A. I'm sorry, I do not understand the question.

23 MR. VANN: I think I'll ask this and make it very  
24 simple.

25 THE COURT: It's your witness, you ask the

1 question.

2 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor. I'm going to  
3 approach.

4 BY MR. VANN:

5 Q. Could you disassemble this for me? Mr. O'Kelly,  
6 I'm holding up Government's Exhibit 4, it is a complete  
7 upper receiver, would you agree with that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It is not controlled currently, we would agree  
10 with that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. It can be shipped, and you testified people do  
13 order this and have it shipped to their homes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. So it's lawful for me to order this off  
16 the internet and have it shipped --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- to my house, okay. Your opinion is that this  
19 is also, and I'm holding up Government's Exhibit 3, this is  
20 also not a firearm because it does not expel a projectile  
21 by means of explosive, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. It's not a silencer?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Not a destructive device?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And it, under your opinion, does not contain the  
3 receiver of a firearm?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Correct. Okay. So then under your opinion I  
6 could order this complete lower receiver and have it  
7 shipped to my house without any markings from a person who  
8 is not regulated?

9 A. If ATF went according to the regulations, yes.

10 Q. Okay. So I would have this -- I could then,  
11 under your opinion, have this shipped to my house, and then  
12 have this shipped to my house, both of those actions would  
13 be lawful, correct, interstate --

14 A. No, because then ATF would finally take out a pin  
15 and change the word and to or in the definition and it  
16 wouldn't be lawful.

17 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, I'm not asking for your opinion  
18 about what ATF might do in response to that. I'm saying  
19 under your opinion these things could be shipped to your  
20 house independently, correct?

21 A. If ATF went by the definition, yes.

22 Q. Okay. Now, what I'd like you to do is  
23 demonstrate for The Judge what would be required to make  
24 these two pieces into a configuration that would expel a  
25 projectile by means of an explosive. Can you put these two

1 pieces together?

2 A. Again, sure.

3 THE COURT: One moment, please, I'm making a  
4 note. I'm not watching, but go ahead. Wait a minute. Go  
5 ahead, counsel, I apologize for interrupting.

6 BY MR. VANN:

7 Q. Can you assemble those two pieces?

8 A. And so as a result we should pretend that things  
9 fall within the definition that don't satisfy --

10 Q. Mr. O'Kelly --

11 THE COURT: There's no question.

12 BY MR. VANN:

13 Q. I'm not asking for commentary.

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Thank you. Is that now -- you have expertise as  
16 a firearm's specialist in your CV, right, would that be a  
17 complete AR that could expel a projectile by means of an  
18 explosive?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So it wouldn't take, as you said with counsel, 30  
21 minutes and some specialized training and tools to assemble  
22 that, you would nearly need your thumbs to push two pins,  
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the receiver itself, and

1 I believe that's been marked as Government's Exhibit 2, the  
2 receiver. And you kept saying it has two of the four  
3 requirements under the CFR?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What are the four requirements under the CFR?

6 A. House the hammer, house the bolt, house the  
7 firing mechanism, receive the barrel.

8 Q. And is receiving the barrel a requirement of the  
9 CFR?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And it says -- what does it say  
12 specifically?

13 A. And is usually threaded at its forward portion to  
14 receive the barrel.

15 Q. Does that mean must or that means usually?

16 MS. CAHOON: Objection, Your Honor.

17 A. It is usually threaded.

18 THE COURT: It reads as it says. It says what it  
19 says.

20 MR. VANN: Well, Your Honor, I want to know --  
21 he's now claiming it's a requirement, and I'm asking what  
22 his interpretation of the word is for purposes of his  
23 definition that he's applied.

24 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, if I may, I think that's  
25 the very reason --

1 THE COURT: Counsel, I get your point --

2 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: -- which is the regulation standing  
4 on its own suggests to the reader, and we have to assume an  
5 uninformed reader who's relying only on that set of terms,  
6 the term usually does not mean always. Now, to somebody  
7 who is familiar with a firearm, as I am not, that might  
8 somehow seem inconsistent or senseless because the three  
9 components within the regulation can only have a  
10 utilitarian function, which is to enable the weapon to  
11 expel a projectile by means of an explosive, if there is a  
12 barrel so that the projectile when it goes out, it simply,  
13 at some point, drops immediately to the ground because it  
14 hasn't otherwise been directed. I get your point.

15 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 BY MR. VANN:

17 Q. Would we agree that there are three things that  
18 are required for a receiver under the CFR, the attachment  
19 of the hammer, the trigger group or firing mechanism and  
20 then either houses the bolt or breech face, we would agree  
21 with that, wouldn't we?

22 A. I agree that there are at least three.

23 Q. Possibly fourth?

24 A. Well, I say four.

25 Q. Okay. Now --



1           THE COURT: My question is, sir, I believe the  
2 question is what and only what are the terms of the  
3 regulation.

4       A.           The --

5           THE COURT: Does refer to those three, and the  
6 middle one is in the distinctive.

7       A.           Your Honor, the fourth one, the word usually  
8 refers to the word threaded, is usually threaded. It's not  
9 usually receives the barrel. That's --

10          THE COURT: I understand it's your contention  
11 that, to the extent -- at the very least to be more clear,  
12 and to conform with the way things are in the real world, a  
13 weapon, the breechblock, need not be threaded, it simply  
14 needs somehow to keep the barrel in place so that the  
15 projectile, when ejected, goes in the direction in which  
16 the person pulling the trigger wants it to go, simply  
17 doesn't literally fly off anywhere, and who knows were.

18       A.           Yes, sir, I agree.

19          THE COURT: In other words, it's your contention  
20 that the draftsman could have and should have been more  
21 careful because, as it is, there is a degree of ambiguity,  
22 at least as one reads the words themselves?

23       A.           Yes, sir.

24          THE COURT: To bring comprehension to those  
25 words, given that ambiguity, one must have some additional

1 information about how a weapon is constructed, a weapon  
2 capable of ejecting a projectile by means of an explosive.

3 A. That's true, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Thank you. You may continue,  
5 counsel.

6 BY MR. VANN:

7 Q. Now, on the lower receiver that you have there,  
8 we would agree that you pin the trigger group to it,  
9 correct?

10 A. The trigger does install into this piece using a  
11 pin, yes.

12 Q. And the hammer does as well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And on the complete one you have in front of you,  
15 how does it hold the upper receiver in place?

16 A. By pins.

17 Q. Capture pins, in fact, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And by capture pins, I mean, and tell me if I'm  
20 wrong, you don't push them and they fall out, they actually  
21 are retained in the lower receiver, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And that grabs hold of ears on the upper receiver  
24 and holds that receiver tight that incorporates the bolt;  
25 is that right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And so the pins attach to the lower receiver,  
3 hold the upper receiver in place, that then holds the third  
4 component, which is the bolt and also the openings -- well,  
5 we won't go into that, also is threaded for the barrel as  
6 well, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. So the piece that we're talking about that  
9 is designated and it's marked by Anderson Manufacturing as  
10 their receiver contains two of the components, and then  
11 pins are captured in it to hold in place another portion of  
12 the firearm that retains the other two?

13 A. That doesn't house them.

14 Q. Okay. All right. But it provides an attachment  
15 point for the housing, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 THE COURT: The only, quote, housing is in -- is  
19 shown in Government's Exhibit A; is that correct?

20 A. Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: I call that envelope or a container,  
22 I believe you testified -- I believe you testified that  
23 there is nothing similar, and it doesn't appear to be from  
24 what you've shown here?

25 A. Well, when I use the word housing, Your Honor,

1 I'm referring to the verbiage in the CFR that says that  
2 part to which houses, and then lists the parts.

3 THE COURT: Houses, contains, holds?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: And closes?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 MR. VANN: And for purposes of the record, I also  
8 want to -- as part of Government's Exhibit 2 is the chain  
9 of custody bag with the markings on it, that will be part  
10 of that exhibit.

11 THE COURT: No objection, right?

12 MS. CAHOON: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Excuse me, Ms. Keegan (phonetic), as  
14 Mr. Weldon knows, tell me, don't bother with the chain of  
15 custody, my question simply, is there any dispute about it  
16 being what the proponent claims it is? All the stuff you  
17 learned in law school, only fuss with what's in front of me  
18 and they'll only do it once, but go ahead.

19 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 BY MR. VANN:

21 Q. Let's talk about how these are sold, both the  
22 complete AR's and the lower receivers. Are lower receivers  
23 manufactured by licensed manufacturers throughout the U.S.?

24 A. Because ATF insists they must be, yes.

25 Q. Mr. O'Kelly --

1 THE COURT: The answer's yes.

2 A. I answered the question, sir, I answered yes.

3 Q. Thank you. Are they sold by multiple  
4 manufacturers throughout the U.S.?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And can I purchase an AR lower from this  
7 manufacturer and get pieces from all different ones and  
8 assemble my own firearm?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And if I wanted to buy that, me, the  
11 individual, wants to buy that firearm, how would I go about  
12 buying that lower receiver so that I could assemble, in my  
13 house a firearm?

14 A. According to ATF you would have to complete a  
15 form called a 4473 giving your name, address, date of  
16 birth, place of birth, et cetera, sex, height, weight,  
17 you'd have to answer a series of questions yes or no as to  
18 whether you're prohibited from possessing a firearm,  
19 whether you're the actual owner -- I'm sorry, purchaser of  
20 the fire arm, because ATF insists that that is a firearm,  
21 and then you would sign and date it. You would withstand a  
22 background check, which the dealer would call in to either  
23 the FBI or the state police, depending on the state in  
24 which you're purchasing it, after which if the dealer gets  
25 to proceed you would be able to take it home.

1 Q. And if were to walk into a dealer who's selling  
2 these and request to purchase one without filling out that  
3 form, would, by law, I be able to just take it and leave?

4 A. No, because if you did, ATF would come after them  
5 and take their license because they insist that's a  
6 firearm, even though it doesn't match the definition.

7 THE COURT: And that is in fulfillment of its  
8 understanding of its obligations under the Gun Control Act?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. If I were to buy the complete AR, would I have to  
11 do the same thing?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That's the firearm, you even concede that's a  
14 firearm, correct?

15 A. That is definition one of weapon which expels by  
16 action of an explosive.

17 Q. Okay. So if I go in, I have to fill out the  
18 form, background check is run, and that's the control  
19 that's in place to ensure that someone who's prohibited  
20 doesn't have access to a firearm, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Lastly I want to talk about the FAL, I think you  
23 spent some time on that, to show the inconsistency in  
24 determinations. If I were to manufacture a machine gun  
25 from an AR, what's the difference in the lower receiver

1     that you see in front of you, and a lower receiver for a  
2     machine gun for an AR?

3     A.           The only difference, according to ATF, is a very  
4     small hole just slightly above this hole for the selector,  
5     which I'm indicating with my little finger (indicating).  
6     Probably an 1/8 of an inch from this top surface there  
7     would be a hole the size of -- to use layman's terms, about  
8     the size of a pencil lead, going clearly through the hole  
9     receiver. ATF says that changes this from a Gun Control  
10    Act receiver to a NFA receiver.

11    Q.           And what is the purpose of that hole?

12    A.           To accommodate the axle pin for a part called the  
13    auto sear.

14    Q.           So it has a function, it holds the machine gun  
15    part in place, correct?

16    A.           Yes.

17    Q.           So there is a difference between an AR that is a  
18    semi- automatic receiver and an AR that has been  
19    manufactured for machine gun?

20    A.           Correct.

21    Q.           Okay. And that distinction is the hold, that's  
22    the change you would have to make in the lower receiver,  
23    correct?

24    A.           That's ATF's ruling, yes.

25    Q.           Okay. Under the FAL, what modification would you

1 make to an upper of an FAL -- I'm sorry, to a lower of an  
2 FAL, for a semi- automatic and the lower of an FAL for a  
3 fully automatic?

4 A. Well, you wouldn't modify the lower, you would  
5 just go get a three-position lower. You would otherwise  
6 try -- you would be trying to reinvent the wheel to modify  
7 a semi-automatic FAL lower.

8 Q. Isn't it true that the modification in order to  
9 take an FAL from a semi-automatic to an automatic is made  
10 in the upper receiver and not the lower receiver?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Okay. So there's a difference between the FAL  
13 and the AR in that what makes one a machine gun and the  
14 other a machine gun, you have to make modifications to  
15 different receivers, correct?

16 A. That's the only comparison, yes. In contrast to  
17 the differences between them --

18 Q. The only --

19 THE COURT: Excuse me, I believe you answered the  
20 question, okay. Or if you did not, counsel let him  
21 continue, but I --

22 MR. VANN: Your Honor, I think he did, and I  
23 didn't mean to cut you off.

24 THE COURT: No problem.

25 BY MR. VANN:



1 Q. So you -- the difference is that you would have  
2 to modify different portions of the firearm in order to  
3 make it into a machine gun?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Okay.

6 MR. VANN: No further questions, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Tell me, I'm sorry, I've already  
8 forgot what's FAL stand for?

9 MR. VANN: FAL is a type of firearm that --

10 THE COURT: Type of semi-automatic rifle that  
11 can, as you indicated, be converted to an automatic?

12 BY MR. VANN:

13 Q. And Mr. O'Kelly, just to reiterate, the FAL's  
14 also a two-part receiver system, upper and lower, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Keegan (sic), I think,  
17 folks, after this we'll take a short break, just FYI. We  
18 won't take a lunch break -- we'll find out how much longer  
19 we're going to go. Go ahead, Ms. Keegan.

20 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor, I'll be  
21 brief. And it is Cahoon, not Keegan.

22 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry.

23 MS. CAHOON: That's quite all right. It's an  
24 unusual last name.

25 THE COURT: Cahoon, Calley, Cavanaugh, Carr --

1 MS. CAHOON: Too many C names in your life.

2 THE COURT: Too many Irish genes floating around  
3 the room.

4 MS. CAHOON: Exactly right.

5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. CAHOON:

7 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, just a few brief questions for you.

8 If you could turn to Defense Exhibit G -- or, excuse me, H,  
9 which is in that black binder, it's a three-page document.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And are you familiar with that document,  
12 Mr. O'Kelly?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And what is that document?

15 A. It's an affidavit which I wrote.

16 Q. Was that an affidavit you wrote for this case,  
17 right?

18 A. Yes.

19 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I apologize.

20 BY MS. CAHOON:

21 Q. And I believe Judge Carr asked a question during  
22 cross-examination as to whether or not there had been a  
23 case involving a similar issue, and in your affidavit you  
24 talk about the Jimenez case did that case also involve the  
25 CFR definition of a firearm?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And if you know, do you know what the resolution  
3 of that case was?

4 A. I do not recall. If I did know -- I have had  
5 quite a number of cases.

6 Q. Not a problem.

7 THE COURT: I'm not sure Jimenez is directly on  
8 point. Obviously both parties cite it.

9 MS. CAHOON: Certainly, Your Honor. We're happy  
10 to provide argument at a later time.

11 THE COURT: Of course, I'm just saying --

12 BY MS. CAHOON:

13 Q. Just a few more points of clarification,  
14 Mr. O'Kelly. You received some questions --

15 THE COURT: We can talk about this later. It is  
16 my impression, my recollection from my reading of the  
17 briefs, actually occurred sometime last week because I had  
18 lots of other things in between, but that to the extent  
19 that Jimenez is on point, and I understand the  
20 contentions -- contention that it is, I'm really not sure  
21 that's, quote, directly on point. I don't think there's --  
22 I don't think it raises precisely the issue in front of me.  
23 And that's all I'm saying.

24 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor. I appreciate  
25 that.

1           THE COURT: It may still have pertinence, may  
2 still be controlling, but I just don't -- I don't think  
3 there's a case, at least none has been cited, that is four  
4 square, contains all the components, or lack thereof, of  
5 this case, okay?

6           MS. CAHOON: And thank you, that's fine, Your  
7 Honor. And if you're willing, we certainly have argument  
8 about that at the close of the hearing.

9           THE COURT: Don't worry. I expect that. I  
10 invite that. I require that.

11           MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 BY MS. CAHOON:

13 Q.           Mr. O'Kelly, we've been talking a lot about this  
14 lower receiver, upper receiver, if you could just grab  
15 Government's Exhibit 2, which I think you told us is just  
16 the lower receiver, correct?

17 A.           According to ATF, yes.

18 Q.           Right.

19           THE COURT: Let me ask you a question. I'm  
20 sorry. Hold that back up, would you please? There is, at  
21 the very top fixed to that a round and open portion. What,  
22 if anything, goes through there?

23 A.           Your Honor, that's where the shoulder stock  
24 screws into it. You can see --

25           THE COURT: That's not where the barrel goes

1 through?

2 A. No, no, sir. The barrel would be toward the  
3 front.

4 THE COURT: I understand.

5 BY MS. CAHOON:

6 Q. So you've already explained to us that the lower  
7 receiver, as defined, that you're holding in your hand  
8 there, doesn't have all of the four CFR components pieces.  
9 If we were to take the lower receiver and the upper  
10 receiver as defined, would they have all of those four  
11 components pieces together?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You received some questions from the government  
14 today in which you were asked should not be controlled.  
15 Could you clarify, it's not your opinion today about  
16 whether or not certain components of firearms should be  
17 controlled as a matter of policy, correct?

18 A. I'm not so sure I understand.

19 Q. I'm sorry, that's a poor question, let me ask it  
20 better.

21 You're not -- are you here today to provide an  
22 opinion about what would be good firearm policy in terms of  
23 whether or not that's -- that's an even worse question.

24 Let me just ask you this. The pieces that you  
25 snapped together for us earlier, for the government's

1     counsel, the -- did that include a stripped lower receiver  
2     or a completed lower receiver that you snapped together?

3     A.           That was a completed lower.

4     Q.           Thank you. And if we had only a stripped lower  
5     receiver, as we do in this case, would you be able to  
6     easily snap it together to make a complete firearm?

7     A.           Easy being a relative term, it depends on who's  
8     doing it.

9     Q.           So if we had only the stripped lower receiver,  
10    would we need someone with some skill in firearms and  
11    possibly also tools to make it into an operable firearm?

12    A.           Yes.

13                MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, if I can just have a  
14    moment, I just want to confer?

15                THE COURT: Absolutely.

16    BY MS. CAHOON:

17    Q.           Just briefly, Mr. O'Kelly. Did the, what's being  
18    defined as the lower receiver in this case, did the one at  
19    issue in this case that you reviewed, was that stripped or  
20    complete?

21    A.           It stripped, it's bare.

22    Q.           And would a stripped lower receiver require more  
23    skill and time to make into a complete firearm?

24    A.           Yes, of course. That is quite a number of parts  
25    that has to be installed.

1 Q. So it wouldn't be as simple as what you did for  
2 The Court a moment ago where you snapped the two completed  
3 pieces together, correct?

4 A. No. Not only do you have to add quite a number  
5 of parts, they have to be done in certain order, because in  
6 some situations one retains the other, so you can't even do  
7 them in the wrong order.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 MS. CAHOON: We have nothing further. Thank you,  
10 Your Honor.

11 MR. VANN: Your Honor, if I may?

12 THE COURT: Absolutely. Sure.

13 MR. VANN: Thank you.

14 RECROSS EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. VANN:

16 Q. Mr. O'Kelly, snapping in those parts to the lower  
17 receiver wouldn't change your opinion or your analysis of  
18 whether or not it classified as a receiver, would it?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. So it wouldn't matter if it came completely  
21 stripped or fully completed, under your opinion even fully  
22 completed, it is not a receiver?

23 A. Fully completed it still only has two of the  
24 elements in the CFR, so in my opinion, no, it's not there.

25 Q. Thank you.

1 THE COURT: Ms. Cahoon, anything further?

2 MS. CAHOON: Nothing additional for this witness.

3 Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Mr. O'Kelly, you may step down.

5 You're welcome to stay, or you're free to go. It's

6 entirely up to you.

7 What's next? How much time -- I don't expect to  
8 take closing argument and then go from there. I think it's  
9 important, fairly substantial amount of information has  
10 been generated so far in this hearing, I suspect we'll get  
11 more from the government's witness, and I think it's  
12 appropriate to give you time, if you wish, to order a  
13 transcript and set a briefing schedule. Are both the  
14 defendants out of custody?

15 MR. KURT: No.

16 MS. CAHOON: Mr. Robison is out of custody.  
17 Mr. Robison is out of custody, I believe his  
18 co-defendant --

19 THE COURT: Given the delay, I think we may have  
20 discussed this before, but in terms of -- that's a separate  
21 issue, but perhaps we can talk about that a little bit  
22 further this afternoon just to see, obviously more sense --  
23 Speedy Trial Act. And also Mr. Robison wants to know, just  
24 as Mr. Rowold, what's going to happen at the end of the  
25 day. I understand that, but it's going to take a little



1 bit of time to get these issues briefed up further, and  
2 it's going to take me some time to reach and write up an  
3 opinion. So anyway, that's neither here nor there, all I'm  
4 saying I don't expect -- maybe if you want to try and  
5 submit it to me today, fine, I'll leave that up to you.

6 So what's next on your side?

7 MS. CAHOON: Your Honor, and I do, just to answer  
8 the question you just asked, I think our preference would  
9 be to have post -- would be to have post-hearing briefing  
10 if this Court --

11 THE COURT: That's my custom.

12 MS. CAHOON: We are not calling anyone  
13 additional, so we'd be happy to move for admission of our  
14 exhibits.

15 THE COURT: Any objection to the items contained  
16 in their binder?

17 MR. VANN: No, Your Honor.

18 MS. CAHOON: Thank you, Your Honor. Then we have  
19 nothing further.

20 THE COURT: Including Exhibit Number 2, the  
21 article itself?

22 MS. CAHOON: The lower receiver itself, as well  
23 as the firearms are government's exhibits for Your Honor.  
24 If for some reason the government doesn't move to admit  
25 them, then we would ask that they be admitted.

1           THE COURT: Obviously I'm not going to take the  
2    weapon. Just -- government, what's your -- my question,  
3    really, is how much of a break should we take, ten minutes  
4    or so just to --

5           MR. WELDON: A short break would be fine, Your  
6    Honor, and then maybe expect half hour or 40 minutes  
7    additional testimony from our witness.

8           THE COURT: What if I charge you a dollar a  
9    minute for every minute after that?

10          MR. WELDON: Maybe five minutes after that,  
11   Judge.

12          THE COURT: That's okay. If we take the time  
13   we've taken so far, that's fine. My reputation for brevity  
14   in allowing its opposite is not that great anyway. So  
15   seriously let's take about a ten minute break rather than a  
16   lunch break.

17                   (A brief recess was taken.)

18          THE COURT: The government may proceed.

19          MR. WELDON: Your Honor, the government calls  
20   special -- I'm sorry, Firearm's Enforcement Officer Daniel  
21   Hoffman to the stand.

22          THE COURT: Is there any objection to his  
23   qualifications for the matter at hand, for purposes of this  
24   hearing anyway?

25          MS. JOHNSON: No, for purposes of this hearing,

1 no, Your Honor.

2 DANIEL HOFFMAN,

3 was herein, called as if upon examination, was first duly  
4 sworn, as hereinafter certified, and said as follows:

5 THE COURT: Good morning. Good noon, I guess.  
6 Once again, about that distance. Mr. O'Kelly did a fine  
7 job actually.

8 Tell me your name, please.

9 A. Daniel Hoffman, H-O-F-F-M-A-N.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And are you presently  
11 employed?

12 A. Yes, sir. Currently I'm employed with the  
13 Firearm's and Ammunition Technology Division of the ATF.

14 THE COURT: How long have you been employed with  
15 that division or unit?

16 A. I began there in January of 2016.

17 THE COURT: And how long have you been employed  
18 by ATF?

19 A. That's when I joined ATF, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: And before that what occupation did  
21 you have?

22 A. Before that I performed security at government  
23 facilities.

24 THE COURT: And for whom? Was there a particular  
25 agency or set of agencies, or was it sort of a rotating

1 assignment?

2 A. It was a contractor that worked for Federal  
3 Protective Services.

4 THE COURT: How long did you work for them?

5 A. About three-and-a-half years I believe.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And before that?

7 A. Before that I went back to school to get my  
8 education after my military time.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Where was that, what was the  
10 education?

11 A. I attended, or I went online to Ashford  
12 University where I received a Bachelors in Business  
13 Economics and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And before that?

15 A. Before that I kind of have dual employment. I  
16 worked retail and management, along with served in the  
17 National Guard.

18 THE COURT: Okay. How long were you in the  
19 National Guard?

20 A. Approximately 13-and-a-half years.

21 THE COURT: And are you still -- are you in the  
22 reserve or --

23 A. No, sir, I left after my deployments.

24 THE COURT: What rank did you attain?

25 A. Sergeant E-5.

1           THE COURT: Okay. And what was your specialty or  
2 whatever in the National Guard, what were you trained to  
3 do?

4           A. I began as a -- the first four-and-a-half years  
5 as a small arm's repairman, basically trained on all the  
6 weapon systems. After that I moved over to infantry where  
7 I did a few deployments in Iraq and was basically the  
8 unit's weapons Sergeant.

9           THE COURT: What does that mean?

10          A. I trained my soldiers on -- especially when we  
11 went to Iraq, we were a light infantry group, and we were  
12 given vehicles so we didn't have a lot of experience on the  
13 larger machine guns, the Ma Deuce 50 caliber machine guns  
14 and Mark 19 grenade launcher, I got everybody up to speed  
15 on them and maintain those weapon systems.

16          THE COURT: How did you learn the information and  
17 gain the experience necessary to tell other folks how those  
18 things worked?

19          A. Essentially through my time as small arms  
20 repairman, little more than just armorer, you're completely  
21 trained on the operating systems, not just how to break  
22 them down and reassemble them, but the principles of how  
23 they operate.

24          THE COURT: And what kind of firearms or other  
25 weapons are, quote, small arms?

1 A. We started with the M-9 Beretta pistol, and we  
2 went all the way up to 155-millimeter Howitzer Cannon which  
3 can expel a projectile 30 miles, so it's quite a big thing.

4 THE COURT: So a sidearm is a sidearm, but not  
5 all small arms can be carried in one hand or slung across  
6 your back?

7 A. Correct, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And is there any other training or  
9 experience that you've had that, in your view, qualifies  
10 for the question, as you understand you may be asked, and  
11 the testimony you expect to offer?

12 A. Primarily my training as my time in the ATF, we  
13 do a very thorough two year on-the-job training program  
14 when we become an FEO.

15 THE COURT: When did you join the ATF?

16 A. January of 2016.

17 THE COURT: '15, '16?

18 A. '16, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: '16. So been about a year and eight  
20 or nine months since you completed that portion of your  
21 activity, your training; is that correct?

22 A. Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: And once again, what do you do day in  
24 and day out, what are your -- what's the scope and span of  
25 your assignment with ATF?

1       A.           Essentially the Firearms and Ammunition  
2       Technology Division provides the technical guidance and  
3       classification on how items fall under the federal law.

4               THE COURT:   Okay.   What does that -- how do you  
5       go about determining that?

6       A.           So my day-to-day operations we would receive an  
7       item either for a criminal investigation or for an industry  
8       evaluation, and determine either, yes, this falls under the  
9       GCA or the NFA and make a classification based on that.

10              THE COURT:   Gun Control Act or National Firearms  
11      Act, and you say an item can fall under either of those?  
12      I'm sorry, it was my impression that the Gun Control Act  
13      had replaced the National Firearms Act.

14      A.           No, Your Honor.   The Gun Control Act replaced  
15      Federal Firearms Act, the National Firearms Act is still in  
16      effect.

17              THE COURT:   My mistake then, thanks for that  
18      correction.   And then so you receive an item, what do you  
19      do then?

20      A.           We examine it.   If it's a full firearm like the  
21      assembled AR type firearm, we'll do a safety check and make  
22      sure it's safe, we'll determine how it functions, its  
23      physical characteristics.   We'll photograph it, and we'll  
24      evaluate on how it falls under our definitions, both  
25      statutory and regulatory.

1           THE COURT: For example, if you were to receive  
2 an AM-15, would your evaluation ascertain whether it had  
3 been altered to fire in automatic mode?

4 A.           An AM-15 like stripped receiver, Your Honor, or  
5 complete firearm?

6           THE COURT: I'm sorry, the whole thing, the  
7 government -- whatever the government's exhibit is.

8 A.           Absolutely. We would do a function test to  
9 determine how that weapon is firing and whether it's  
10 capable of fully automatic firing.

11           THE COURT: Okay. And what other sorts of tests  
12 or determinations would you do?

13 A.           In addition to the function test, we'd actually,  
14 if safe, go back and do a live test fire. We have a range  
15 in our office, Your Honor.

16           THE COURT: Okay. Did you do -- did you do  
17 anything within the line of your ordinary duties, not as an  
18 expert, in line of your ordinary duties, with regard to the  
19 items at issue in this case, the specific items?

20 A.           Yes, Your Honor. I wrote the criminal technical  
21 report on this case.

22           THE COURT: Okay. Now we get to why you're here.  
23 I understand now, okay, among other reasons.

24           And counsel, it's not -- you are, once again?

25           MR. JACOBS: Jonathan Jacobs, sir.



1 THE COURT: Mr. Jacobs, of course go ahead.

2 DIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. JACOBS:

4 Q. Yes, Your Honor, thank you. Mr. Hoffman, just a  
5 few more questions about AR-15 and AM-15 specific training  
6 in your background. In your military, did you deal with  
7 those types of weapon systems?

8 A. Yes, the AR or M-16 as it's known in the  
9 military, it's the primary weapon of all military members.

10 Q. What's the difference between the M-16 and the AR  
11 type weapon system?

12 A. The M-16 is capable of fully automatic fire,  
13 three round burst fire, it would be considered a  
14 machinegun.

15 Q. It operates the same way, though, right?

16 A. The design and operation is identical.

17 Q. Okay. And in -- as an FEO -- in your training as  
18 an FEO did you do specific training on AR-15 style rifle or  
19 have references when making those types of classifications?

20 A. Yes, the AR being probably the most type of  
21 firearm in America, we definitely focused on that. You  
22 mentioned references. We have the national firearms  
23 collection which houses approximately 15,000 firearms.  
24 This would include probably 100 AR different types of  
25 firearms and another 100 or so AR/M-16 type receivers.

1 Q. And do you have any expert materials that you  
2 reference as well?

3 A. We also maintain a library of periodicals and  
4 books, that library consists of approximately 2,000 books  
5 on firearm and firearm-related topics.

6 Q. I imagine, Mr. Hoffman, your experience involves  
7 many manufacturers of AR-15s?

8 A. Yes, I've toured many manufacturers of firearms  
9 and ammunition, several of which manufacture AR-type  
10 firearms.

11 Q. Can you give us some examples or --

12 A. Yes, I've been to LWRC in Cambridge, Maryland and  
13 up north to Smith & Wesson, Remington and Colt as well.

14 Q. And they all make an AR-15 style not -- not -- an  
15 AR-15 style weapon?

16 A. That's correct.

17 THE COURT: Duplicate -- whatever the name,  
18 whoever the manufacturer, it's, in all significant  
19 respects, a clone, a duplicate, the same thing; is that  
20 correct, or not?

21 A. Yes, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Jacobs.

23 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 BY MR. JACOBS:

25 Q. As far as your -- you briefly talked about your

1 experience with Federal Regulation and the Gun Control Act  
2 and National Firearms Act, what's your experience with  
3 training in those different provisions?

4 A. During the two year on-boarding process that we  
5 talked about, we do a lot of seminars taught by lawyers,  
6 actually, on not just the regulations under the Gun Control  
7 Act, but also the Congressional hearings behind them, how  
8 we got to where we are today.

9 Q. And can you give The Court an idea of who -- when  
10 you receive a firearm, as you did in this case, who do you  
11 usually receive it from?

12 A. We have an evidence room where all of our -- when  
13 a special agent or even another agency needs a  
14 classification, sends it in, we have a firearms evidence  
15 specialist who processes it, and then when a report gets  
16 assigned, like this one got assigned to me, we go and we  
17 check it out. We sign a log book basically saying we're  
18 taking possession of that evidence, and then we return it  
19 to our workstation.

20 Q. But who are your customers; where do they usually  
21 originate from, just ATF or --

22 A. Generally we have an ATF work flow number, a U.I.  
23 number it's called, but we also do Homeland Security, FBI,  
24 DEA cases.

25 Q. Okay. And in this case specifically, you stated

1     that you reviewed the AM-15 in this case, and what was your  
2     conclusion in this case?

3     A.           It's the receiver of an AR type firearm.

4     Q.           Okay. I want to walk The Court down why ATF  
5     has -- has said that this is the receiver of an AR type  
6     firearm, and first I think it's important to start with the  
7     AR-15 history. Can you give us an idea of that history?

8     A.           The AR-15, which the assembled weapon was today,  
9     the AR-15 type derived from an AR-10 type, which was the  
10    inventor's original firearm, the military was looking for a  
11    more scaled down weapon, so he reduced the size, him and  
12    two or individuals. He worked for a company called  
13    Armalite, that's where the AR came from, and AR-15.  
14    Armalite got in some financial trouble, sold the rights to  
15    Colt, and Colt kind of made it what it is we know today.  
16    It originally was adopted by the military in 1963 and went  
17    into production in '64. At the same time Colt made a  
18    sporterized version for the --

19                THE COURT: A what -- what version? What was  
20    the --

21    A.           Sporterized.

22                THE COURT: Sporterized?

23    A.           That did not have the machinegun function for the  
24    civilian market.

25    Q.           By sporterized, what do you mean by that?

1 A. Essentially took away the third position for  
2 automatic fire, removed parts such as the automatic sear.

3 Q. And Mr. Hoffman, at that time when did that come  
4 commercially, you mentioned it came commercially on the  
5 scene --

6 A. 1964.

7 Q. 1964. And at that time did Colt happen to  
8 identify a piece or part as their frame or receiver?

9 A. They marked their markings with serialized lower.

10 Q. And that was in 1964?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And Mr. Hoffman, how many -- let's go to  
13 today, how many AR-15s are out there today?

14 A. The National Sports Shooting Foundation, NSFS,  
15 estimated a few years ago anywhere between 5 and  
16 10 million.

17 Q. Okay. You said 5 and 10 million, okay?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And how are those -- today how are AR-15 style  
20 firearms identified, marking wise?

21 A. How or where?

22 Q. Where are the marks -- I'm sorry, I'll rephrase.

23 Where are the markings contained on the AR-15  
24 style weapons today?

25 THE COURT: By markings, do you mean the serial

1 number?

2 BY MR. JACOBS:

3 Q. The serial numbers, the manufacturer's markings?

4 A. They're found on the receiver, the lower  
5 assembly.

6 Q. Okay. I'd like to talk to you a little bit about  
7 your knowledge of the history of the Gun Control Act  
8 because I think it's directly relevant here to -- to your  
9 classification, and ATF's continued classification of  
10 the -- of the lower receiver of an AR as the firearm frame  
11 or receiver. So what was the Gun Control Act predecessor?

12 A. The Federal Firearms Act, which was enacted in  
13 1938.

14 Q. And in -- in that, that predecessor, what -- what  
15 was defined as a firearm, or what was included?

16 A. I don't know the definition verbatim, but it was  
17 not only a weapon that expelled a projectile but any part  
18 or parts of a firearm.

19 Q. So any part --

20 THE COURT: If I may, for example, if -- and I --  
21 my familiarity with what I'm about to say is, you know,  
22 when I was eight years old with a cap gun, okay, but  
23 there's a little plastic part on the handle of the toy  
24 revolver, and that was screwed in, if memory serves, if  
25 that were a real weapon, okay, would that little screw

1     that, you know, held the little plastic part of the grip  
2     on, that would constitute a firearm, the screw itself, the  
3     little teeny thing?

4     A.           If it was a live firearm, yes, Your Honor.  Yes,  
5     that would have been a firearm under the Federal Firearms  
6     Act.

7                 THE COURT:  When they said any part, even  
8     something as -- I thought so, but I -- that came to mind,  
9     just curious.  Go ahead.

10                MR. JACOBS:  Thank you, Your Honor.

11     BY MR. WELDON:

12     Q.           How many parts are on an AR-15 roughly?  I know  
13     you --

14     A.           It would depend on the sighting system, the  
15     barrels.  In the lower with the collapsed stock, the last  
16     one I built had 36 components in the lower, I would say  
17     another 20, 25 in the upper, so 50 to 60 perhaps.

18     Q.           What's the smallest part, along the same question  
19     as Your Honor's question here?

20     A.           There are very tiny springs, I'm holding up my  
21     fingers about a quarter inch roll pins, about a quarter to  
22     3/8 of an inch long.

23     Q.           Let's fast forward to the Gun Control Act.  What  
24     did the Gun Control Act of 1968 do then as it pertains to  
25     firearms' parts?

1 A. As it pertains to firearms' parts, Congress  
2 intentionally replaced parts or parts of a firearm with  
3 frame or receiver.

4 Q. Do you happen to know, maybe you don't, do you  
5 happen to know why they did that?

6 A. They felt it was unruly to regulate all those  
7 little individual pieces that could be used in things  
8 outside of firearms as well.

9 Q. Okay. And so now the current Gun Control Act  
10 definition, as we've heard from the defense, can you,  
11 again, tell us that that includes the current firearm  
12 definition under the Gun Control Act?

13 A. Under the Gun Control Act, firearm is defined as  
14 any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is  
15 designed to or may readily be converted to expel a  
16 projectile by the action of an explosive.

17 The second part is the frame or receiver of any  
18 such weapon.

19 Q. Okay. That's where we're concerned. So you --  
20 478.11, I'm sorry, where is -- where is the firearm frame  
21 or receiver defined?

22 A. It's defined in two Code of Federal Regulations,  
23 478.11 and 479.11. 478.11 which supports the Gun Control  
24 Act --

25 THE COURT: Hold on just a moment, please. What



1 was that first number?

2 A. 478.11, 27 CFR.

3 THE COURT: Pardon me?

4 A. 27 CFR, Section 478.11.

5 THE COURT: Hold on a second, I'm sorry. Okay.

6 What does this say?

7 A. As in how does it define frame or receiver?

8 THE COURT: Yeah.

9 A. That part which houses the hammer, the bolt, or  
10 breechblock, and the firing mechanism, and which is usually  
11 threaded at its forward portion to receive the barrel.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

13 MR. WELDON:

14 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 BY MR. JACOBS:

16 Q. You mentioned 479.11. What regulation is that?

17 A. That's the regulation for the National Firearms  
18 Act.

19 Q. Can you give us an idea of what firearms are  
20 covered under the National Firearms Act?

21 A. That's the Gun Control Act, essentially covers  
22 conventional-type weapons. The National Firearms Act  
23 contains eight specific categories of firearms which  
24 Congress felt were dangerous and unusual. These types of  
25 firearms include machine guns, silencers, destructive

1 devices, short barrel weapons.

2 Q. Is the 478.11 definition the same, definition of  
3 frame or receiver the same?

4 A. Yes, sir, it is.

5 Q. Okay. And so the Federal Firearms -- I'm sorry,  
6 the Federal Regulation, or 478.11, you mentioned that  
7 definition, and you -- classify the M-15. What parts does  
8 four -- what parts of the M-15 are also in 478.11, what  
9 elements does that meet?

10 A. It meets two of the elements under the definition  
11 of receiver. It houses the hammer and firing mechanism.

12 Q. How many firearms on the market also house all of  
13 those parts, or may not house all of those parts?

14 THE COURT: That's two different questions.

15 BY MR. JACOBS:

16 Q. Sorry. How many firearms on the market house all  
17 of those parts?

18 A. It's a, at this point, minority of firearms  
19 currently manufacture that contain all three elements of  
20 the frame or receiver definition.

21 THE COURT: Let me ask you this, do you -- do you  
22 have an opinion, to a reasonable degree of within your  
23 particular field of expertise, as to the approximate  
24 percentage of all firearms in the United States, whether on  
25 the market or otherwise, contain -- or have a receiver that

1 has a housing that has all four of those components?

2 A. Currently manufactured, my opinion would be  
3 approximately 10 percent. In previous years going all the  
4 way back to '68, that may rise to 20 to 25 percent net.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Do you know how many firearms  
6 in toto are manufactured within the United States in a  
7 given year, roughly? And if you don't, that's fine.

8 A. I should know that, Your Honor, but I can't put  
9 my --

10 THE COURT: Do you know approximately how many  
11 firearms, if I were to take a census of firearms next year  
12 along with everything else?

13 A. We're well above 150,000,000.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You may continue, counsel.

15 MR. JACOBS: And Your Honor --

16 THE COURT: If we apply your 10 -- so of the  
17 150,000,000, once again, realizing that, you know --

18 A. I would conservatively say --

19 THE COURT: It's not statistically accurate, but  
20 based upon your background, training and education, to a  
21 reasonable degree of certainty?

22 A. I would say --

23 THE COURT: Conclusive, but not speculation.

24 A. I would say 100 million of those do not meet the  
25 complete definition of frame or receiver.

1 Q. Can you give us --

2 THE COURT: Counsel, both sides, if there's  
3 further data of that sort, I -- quite candidly I think it's  
4 highly relevant, and the record will be open for you to  
5 refine that -- those figures.

6 MR. JACOBS: Sure, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Or in terms of annual production and,  
8 you know, as I say the census, as it were, realizing that  
9 the second one will necessarily have an element of  
10 speculation, but nonetheless if you each come up with some  
11 sort of data on that information I think it's pertinent.  
12 Thank you.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Your Honor, I'm sorry, can you  
14 clarify what you said you wanted additional information on,  
15 did you say annual production?

16 THE COURT: He -- he basically gave two bits of  
17 testimony, one was whatever the annual production is, it  
18 would be his testimony about 10 percent of those weapons  
19 contain a receiver that contains, would meet the literal --  
20 literal terms of the -- of the regulation at issue here.  
21 He also testified, quote, well above 150,000,000, so let's  
22 deal with 150,000,000 firearms out there, literally able to  
23 somehow go out and take a census, as I understand his  
24 testimony, the head count or the gun count would be  
25 something above 150.

1           Second part of my question then in that regard  
2   was, again, to a reasonable degree of certainty, within his  
3   field of expertise, what percentage -- percentage of those,  
4   or how many of those, and he said about 100,000. So in  
5   other words -- about 100,000 would meet the term, another  
6   50,000 or greater number because of prior modes of  
7   production and so forth. That's all. And that may be it.  
8   I'm just saying to both parties if there is somewhat more  
9   precise, somehow derived, and that's fine, you may offer  
10   that as exhibits in your -- in your briefing. That's all.

11           MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

12           THE COURT: Did that answer your question?

13           MS. JOHNSON: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

14           MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

15           THE COURT: Go ahead.

16   BY MR. JACOBS:

17   Q.           As far as some examples, specific examples of  
18   firearms that do not contain all three parts, can you  
19   provide some of those weapons systems outside of the AR-15?

20   A.           When I look at semi-automatic self loading  
21   pistols, basically handguns that are not revolvers, I can't  
22   think of any that would meet all three elements,  
23   specifically the most important -- lost my words, excuse  
24   me. The Glock is the primary weapon of law enforcement  
25   officers of the country. The Glock does not use a hammer,

1     it's a striker fire system, essentially the fire pin is  
2     under spring tension, gets cocked, sear releases it and it  
3     strikes the cartridge. Having no hammer, that would put  
4     all Glock pistols outside of a firearm that met the  
5     definition, and many, many firearms are now cloning or  
6     copying the Glock type of firearm.

7                 THE COURT: And the Glock is, at least from your  
8     testimony, fairly popular?

9     A.           Popular is the word I was looking for.

10                THE COURT: Pardon me?

11     A.           Popular is the word I was looking for I couldn't  
12     find.

13                THE COURT: Is it popular in private market?

14     A.           Very, very, Your Honor.

15                THE COURT: Well, again, if you can testify to a  
16     reasonable degree of certainty, based upon your background,  
17     training, experience and your overall familiarity with the  
18     subject, I'm good to ask, of the handguns, of -- of the  
19     pistols, take out revolvers, okay, but of the pistols, what  
20     percentage are Glocks being most recent production, or your  
21     best estimate to a reasonable degree?

22     A.           I couldn't really ballpark that, Your Honor. At  
23     one point, law enforcement they were almost all --

24                THE COURT: That's fine, okay. Your answer is  
25     you can't give an answer, and that's fine. Thank you, sir.

1 BY MR. JACOBS:

2 Q. And so the Glock doesn't contain a hammer at all,  
3 so it's missing one of the elements?

4 A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

5 Q. Okay. And so you get a Glock in or you get an  
6 AM-15 receiver in, and you're asked to classify the  
7 receiver, do you look at the regulatory definition at all  
8 in that case?

9 A. At that point a precedence has been set like the  
10 frame of a Glock pistol, the frame is interchangeable with  
11 the receiver, receiver usually for pistols, has been well  
12 established way before I joined ATF.

13 Q. Okay. So let's move to the AR-15. You do rely  
14 on precedence. When was the first classification of the  
15 AR-15, AM-15 style firearm by ATF?

16 A. The oldest letter that I'm aware of that  
17 determined the lower as the receiver of an AR was dated  
18 1972, I believe January 19th.

19 Q. Okay. And -- and that's been consistent for the  
20 last 50 years?

21 A. Yes, the lower has always been the receiver of an  
22 AR.

23 Q. You've never classified the upper as the receiver  
24 at ATF for the AR-15?

25 A. Not for AR type firearms.

1 Q. Okay. And when you -- when you receive a new  
2 receiver, a brand-new receiver, you've never seen that  
3 firearm before or a new firearm model that comes in, do you  
4 even use the firearm frame or receiver definition at this  
5 point?

6 A. Yes, we refer to it to determine which part best  
7 meets the definition.

8 Q. Okay. And best meets the definition, can you  
9 give us an example of that?

10 THE COURT: Can you put a hold -- I apologize for  
11 interrupting because I know you're heading on down the  
12 line. Was it your testimony that the letter of -- 1972  
13 letter classified the lower receiver as a firearm -- I  
14 mean, tell me again what the 1972 letter said.

15 A. In 1972 someone wrote into the Alcohol, Tobacco  
16 and Firearms unit, which was still part of the IRS, and  
17 said, hey, we have something called an upper receiver and  
18 something called a lower receiver. What is the receiver?  
19 By that point the Gun Control Act was in effect and one  
20 part had to be classified as the receiver. We responded  
21 that the lower was the receiver of the AR type firearm.

22 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, I'm sorry, that's  
23 Government's Exhibit 3 in our motion to dismiss brief, our  
24 opposition to the motion to dismiss.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Why do you say



1     only one part can be classified as firearm?

2     A.           Under the statutory regulations, 923(i), it  
3     requires a license manufacturer or license importer to mark  
4     the receiver of the weapon.

5                 THE COURT:   Okay.   Go ahead.

6     BY MR. WELDON:

7     Q.           And Mr. Hoffman, along those lines it requires --  
8     do you necessarily see every manufacturer's weapon that  
9     they make?

10    A.           No.

11    Q.           Okay.   So someone can make a weapon and not send  
12    it in to you for a determination, correct?

13    A.           Can you clarify, are we talking about licensees  
14    or --

15    Q.           Non-licensees.

16    A.           -- non-licensees?

17    Q.           Yes.

18    A.           Yes, there's no requirement for you them to  
19    submit a sample.

20    Q.           What about licensees, is there a requirement for  
21    them to submit a sample?

22    A.           No, sir.

23    Q.           Okay.

24                 THE COURT:   Counsel, I apologize for

25    interrupting, but do you know -- or perhaps it may or may

1 not have any relevance at all -- whether that regulation,  
2 973 -- or the 9731 was adopted before or after the  
3 regulation at issue here, or they've been -- they were  
4 concurrent or --

5 MR. JACOBS: I'm sorry, 923(i)?

6 A. 923(i).

7 MR. JACOBS: 923(i), Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Is that statutory?

9 MR. JACOBS: Yes, that's --

10 THE COURT: I misunderstood.

11 MR. JACOBS: 18 U.S.C. 923(i).

12 THE COURT: Once again, it's a statute, okay.

13 923(i)?

14 MR. JACOBS: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: What does it say, best of your  
16 recollection? I think it was testified to by Mr. O'Kelly,  
17 but go ahead and tell --

18 A. License importers or license manufacturers are  
19 required to conspicuously mark on the frame or receiver of  
20 a firearm a unique serial number.

21 THE COURT: That's right, okay. Okay, go ahead.

22 BY MR. WELDON:

23 Q. And Mr. Hoffman, there are other markings on the  
24 firearm other than the serial number, correct?

25 A. Correct, a licensee is required to mark

1 manufacturer's name, a model if designated, caliber and  
2 city and state along with the serial number.

3 Q. And where's that requirement?

4 A. That's in the Code of Federal Regulations for  
5 478.92.

6 Q. Okay. And in this case, how long has Colt been  
7 marking -- or I'm sorry, not Colt, how long has the AR-15  
8 been marked on the lower receiver?

9 A. Even the original prototypes of the ARs were  
10 marked on the lower.

11 Q. Okay. I want to go back to the question about if  
12 you receive a firearm and it doesn't house all the parts,  
13 you still reference the firearm frame or receiver  
14 definition, correct?

15 A. Correct. We still utilize it to find the part  
16 that best meets it.

17 Q. Can you give us an example how you specifically  
18 would utilize that?

19 A. We look for which part houses the hammer, the  
20 firing mechanism and the bolt, see if there's one part that  
21 has two. It's -- basically we are looking for a critical  
22 part that we can, you know, direct them that this is the  
23 frame or receiver of the weapon, and that's where the  
24 serial number needs to be marked.

25 Q. But Mr. -- how can you do that? How do you --

1    how do you depart from that definition when the three  
2    elements are not met?

3    A.           As part of the preamble to 478.11, it says that  
4    these are the definitions of the terms unless manifestly --  
5    manifestly incompatible. And it would be incompatible,  
6    specifically like with the AR, the upper house is one, the  
7    lower house is two, but Congress continued for a single  
8    part to be the frame or receiver.

9    Q.           Under the Gun Control --

10               THE COURT: How do you know that?

11    A.           Because they -- Your Honor, they took out any  
12    part or parts in order to control a frame or receiver.

13               THE COURT: Is that 923 little I, is that where  
14    that's manifested or --

15    A.           I believe that would be in the frame or receiver,  
16    and I'm a little unsure, Your Honor.

17               THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'll leave it then to  
18    counsel to address that issue.

19               MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, we cited legislative  
20    history in our brief that indicates that they intended to  
21    mark one part, or intended to regulate one part.

22               THE COURT: I'm sorry. As I say, I read it a  
23    week or so ago and I've forgot. That's fine.

24               MR. JACOBS: No problem.

25    BY MR. WELDON:

1 Q. So Mr. Hoffman, in this case you received AR-15  
2 type lower receiver. In 1971 ATF classified it. Why did  
3 they classify the lower and not the upper?

4 A. Essentially they were adopting the -- where Colt  
5 had already marked it, there was nothing about the lower  
6 being a receiver that prevented the administration of the  
7 Gun Control Act. It fell within part of the frame or  
8 receiver definition, and we just essentially adopted it.

9 MR. JACOBS: Okay. Your Honor, one moment to  
10 consult?

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor, in response to your  
13 previous question about how many exactly firearms are  
14 manufactured in the United States, we would probably have  
15 to do further research on that.

16 THE COURT: And that's fine, that's what I'm  
17 saying. The record will remain open for refinement of  
18 that, that statistical data.

19 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: And if there's other statistical data  
21 that seems pertinent, quite candid, it seems to me if you  
22 have 100,000 weapons that are not regulated, at least under  
23 Chevron, it seems to me to be -- to be serious, there are  
24 serious problems because you get 2/3 of all firearms that  
25 are not covered by the Gun Control Act or National Firearms

1 Act.

2 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Might be news to Congress. Go ahead.  
4 I'm being very candid with you only.

5 MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: If only 10 percent of the weapons  
7 streaming off the world's production lines coming into this  
8 country being manufactured here, whatever, 10 percent of  
9 weapons manufactured here are regulated, okay, so I do  
10 think that further refinement, to the extent that there is  
11 data out there would be meaningful, at least as I read the  
12 Chevron, and as I say, the problem with looking just at the  
13 regular -- the preamble, there is, I -- I think that the  
14 word thereof refers back to this part. And as I  
15 understand, maybe erroneously, this part means the  
16 regulations themselves. On the other hand, you have cited,  
17 and there may be other aspects of the legislative history  
18 that, you know, make -- or do not make clear, or make  
19 unclear, whether the regulation, the inconsistency, if  
20 there is one, between the defendant's interpretation of the  
21 regulation, and they're entitled to a motion to dismiss  
22 because the lack of regulation of the part that's at issue  
23 here --

24 MR. JACOBS: Your Honor --

25 THE COURT: -- is unregulated -- you see where

1 I'm going?

2 MR. JACOBS: Yeah. So, Your Honor, maybe perhaps  
3 to clarify, is --

4 BY MR. JACOBS:

5 Q. Mr. Hoffman, where's the definition of frame or  
6 receiver found, what part of the CFR is that found in?

7 A. It's in 478.11, meaning and terms, and 479.11,  
8 meaning and terms.

9 Q. So 478 specifically, right?

10 A. As it applies to this case, yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. And -- and to mark a firearm, where is  
12 that found, what part of the CFR is that found in?

13 A. Section 478.92.

14 Q. And do you know where to transfer a firearm,  
15 where that is found in?

16 A. I'm not sure which section it's found.

17 Q. That's fine. Mr. Hoffman, I want to ask you one  
18 more question.

19 THE COURT: In other words, is it the  
20 government's contention that if it has a serial number it  
21 is a firearm?

22 MR. JACOBS: Not necessarily, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: I just -- I'm not -- I don't have the  
24 terms, the latter statute in front of me, so --

25 MR. JACOBS: Okay.

1           THE COURT: It says what it says about where you  
2 mark the firearm. Go ahead.

3 BY MR. WELDON:

4 Q.           Mr. Hoffman, what did you do with the specific  
5 firearm when it was received in your examination?

6           THE COURT: I am very sorry, but, again, reask  
7 the question. Is your answer not necessarily to my  
8 question about the regulation informing the manufacturing  
9 where to mark the firearm, not necessarily because it may  
10 be marked, as we had testimony from Mr. O'Kelly, in a  
11 number of places may bear the same marking, is that --

12           MR. JACOBS: I'm sorry, Your Honor, can you  
13 repeat that? I'm not sure I understood.

14           THE COURT: My question was -- my first question  
15 was, oh, if it bears the marking, is it -- if a particular  
16 component bears the marking, i.e. the serial number, is  
17 that ipso facto a firearm? And you said not necessarily.  
18 So then I'm simply trying to understand your not  
19 necessarily response. Simply is it not necessarily a  
20 firearm, a component bearing a marking because some  
21 manufacturers may repeat the serial number elsewhere on the  
22 weapon?

23           MR. JACOBS: Precisely, Your Honor. Some  
24 manufacturers may put -- sometimes this is actually for  
25 tracing processes. For example, Glock will place it on the



1 frame or receiver, and also place it on other places on the  
2 firearm for when it's obliterated, but our -- that the --  
3 that the manufacturer themselves, as in this scenario with  
4 the AR-15, identified that frame or receiver part as the  
5 frame or receiver. ATF accepted it in 1971. They put the  
6 serial number, the manufacturer's markings on them, and  
7 they've been sold for 50 years like that. And it's not  
8 necessary -- ATF is not in the business of if a  
9 manufacturer submits a firearm to ATF to look at it and say  
10 that -- that can't be the firearm frame or receiver, we  
11 will examine it, determine whether it meets the definition  
12 and it's compatible with the Gun Control Act.

13 BY MR. JACOBS:

14 Q. Mr. Hoffman, just to conclude what you did with  
15 this firearm specifically, when you received this AM-15  
16 receiver, what did you do with it?

17 A. As part of my examination, I took the first  
18 receiver I had, and I actually assembled it into a complete  
19 firearm to demonstrate it was the receiver of that firearm.  
20 I utilized a completed upper to save time, and assembled  
21 the firearm.

22 Q. And it worked, you assembled it completely?

23 A. Yeah, it was a fully functional AR type firearm.

24 Q. At that point it meets the definition under  
25 subpart A?

1 A. Correct, yes, sir.

2 MR. JACOBS: No further questions, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: You want a moment?

4 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor. Thank you. I  
5 appreciate it.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. JOHNSON:

8 Q. Good afternoon.

9 A. Good afternoon, ma'am.

10 Q. I'd like to first thank you for your service to  
11 our country. Your vita, which you have an exhibit book in  
12 front of you, I think that we have it labeled as  
13 Defendant's Exhibit C, 1 through 4. Can you identify that  
14 document?

15 A. Yes, ma'am. That's my curriculum vitae or CV.

16 Q. And it reflects that military service from 1995  
17 to 2008; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, that was my years in the military.

19 Q. And did you receive much of your training,  
20 whether it was on-the-job training regarding weapons while  
21 you were in the military?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Because I notice that in your vitae you don't  
24 have the dates or the years that you receive the training.  
25 I think on Page C-2, you specify the training you received

1 from ATF; is that correct?

2 A. Yes, ma'am. The military experience, which is 2,  
3 goes into 3, I discussed my job as a small arms repairman,  
4 there's no date on that, yes, ma'am.

5 Q. So you've actually only been an ATF agent for the  
6 last three years since 2016?

7 A. It will be -- yes, ma'am, it will be four in  
8 January.

9 Q. And I believe that you said that while an ATF  
10 agent, that you provided technical guidance. Do you  
11 actually go out into the field?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And you also evaluate, for classification,  
14 weapons, correct?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Now, included in your training, you indicated  
17 that you attended the new professional ATF National Academy  
18 in Glynco, what year was that?

19 A. Where is that listed, ma'am?

20 Q. Well, let's see, I have it in my notes, so I --

21 THE COURT: Ms. Johnson, if it is your point  
22 you're about -- you are reaching is that Mr. -- Mr. O'Kelly  
23 would appear to have an education, training, experience  
24 that extends over a longer period, more substantive than  
25 its scope and breadth, that's fine. I think I can read

1 both CVs and take that into account.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 BY MS. JOHNSON:

4 Q. Do you recall whether our expert, Daniel O'Kelly,  
5 may have been one of your instructors?

6 A. Ma'am, I didn't -- I didn't attend Glynco, that's  
7 not in my CV.

8 Q. Oh, I'm sorry, the entry operations investigative  
9 basic course, is that one of the courses --

10 A. That's part of Mr. O'Kelly's CV.

11 Q. Okay. I'm sorry. You also included the fact  
12 that you received manufacturing and historical instruction  
13 at the following firearms factories. During what time  
14 frame would you have gone to actually visit some of the  
15 factories that you set forth?

16 A. All of the factories listed there were during my  
17 time with ATF, ma'am.

18 Q. Was that sponsored by the manufacturer or by ATF?

19 A. It was part of our advanced interstate Nexus  
20 tour, it was sponsored by ATF.

21 Q. And were the lecturers employees of ATF, or were  
22 they from the manufacturer?

23 A. No, the manufacturer actually gave us essentially  
24 a guided tour of their manufacturer process.

25 Q. And so the historical instruction that you

1 received, that would have come from the ATF?

2 A. Not there, ma'am. That actually, like, for  
3 instance, when we went to Smith & Wesson we were taught the  
4 entire history of the company by someone from Smith &  
5 Wesson.

6 Q. So it's actually the firearms industry that  
7 provides some of your background and training?

8 A. Absolutely, part of our training, ma'am.

9 Q. And that's sanctioned by the ATF?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Now, during the investigation of my client,  
12 Mr. Robison, did you confirm that the co-defendant, Richard  
13 Rowold actually purchased the packet of 50 stripped  
14 receivers?

15 A. That's completely out of my realm, ma'am.

16 MR. JACOBS: Objection, Your Honor.

17 BY MS. JOHNSON:

18 Q. That was not a part of your investigation?

19 A. No, ma'am.

20 MR. JACOBS: That's not relevant to his --

21 THE COURT: I would agree. I would agree. And  
22 that -- that certainly is the government allegation, but I  
23 think he would have to form that based upon, you know,  
24 information obtained otherwise, which, of course, acquired  
25 by law enforcement so it can be taken into account and

1 testified to, but go ahead.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Is it your understanding that the  
4 government has alleged that the co-defendant was the actual  
5 purchaser of the lower receiver?

6 A. Your Honor, I read the ROI, that's the case  
7 agent. My job completely is classification.

8 THE COURT: And, Ms. Johnson, you said purchased  
9 the receiver, I assume you meant to include the adjective  
10 lower receiver, correct?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 BY MS. JOHNSON:

14 Q. Well, following up with that, you testified that  
15 you, to save time, tested one receiver, there were 50, is  
16 that correct, were you aware of that?

17 A. There were 15 that were submitted for  
18 classification.

19 Q. So only 15 were submitted, did you test each one  
20 of those?

21 A. I examined each one of those, I assembled one.

22 Q. And according to your report, having assembled  
23 it, you said that -- and we can turn to Government's  
24 Exhibit 1, it's not in that book.

25 THE COURT: Do I have a copy of those up here?

1 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

2 BY MS. JOHNSON:

3 Q. I'm going to hand you Government's Exhibit 1 if  
4 you can identify it.

5 A. Government Exhibit 1 is the technical report I  
6 wrote on the 15 exhibits I examined.

7 Q. And so on Page 2 of that report, you identified  
8 that you test fired and assembled the firearm using --  
9 utilizing Exhibit 21; is that correct?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. And then you listed Exhibits 25 through 38 each  
12 consist of one AR type receiver manufactured by Anderson  
13 Manufacturing?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. And the last sentence of that paragraph says  
16 because they are identical I did not assemble and test fire  
17 them; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. So you simply -- I believe that there are  
20 photographs, you simply examined each of the receivers, or  
21 what's described as the lower receiver, and what is it that  
22 you were looking for on each one?

23 A. Just to make sure it was the same as Exhibit 21  
24 that I did assemble. The only difference being the serial  
25 number in each exhibit.

1 Q. You say the only difference is a serial number,  
2 but you don't know if each one of them would actually  
3 testify fire; is that correct?

4 A. It's my professional opinion they would.

5 Q. Based on the fact that you said that they were  
6 all identical?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Is it your testimony that none of these could  
9 fail?

10 A. A lower really never does fail, the stress point  
11 would be in the upper, in the barrel extension.

12 Q. Is it your testimony that they never fail?

13 A. It's a possibility, a receiver extension could  
14 crack.

15 Q. Thank you. Now, turning to the letter which is  
16 attached, which you don't have a copy of, a copy that was  
17 attached to the government's response in opposition to the  
18 defendant's motion to dismiss, you referred to the letter  
19 from, I think you said it was 1972 when lower receivers  
20 were first identified as firearms.

21 A. That's the earliest letter I'm aware of, yes,  
22 ma'am.

23 Q. And in that letter specifically, the letter comes  
24 from manufacturer, and it's sent to the ATF, correct?

25 A. Correct, a manufacturer is able to write in to us



1 to ask for guidance.

2 Q. And yet in the response from the government, this  
3 particular letter says this office has determined that for  
4 the purposes of marking and control, the lower receiver is  
5 the receiver of the firearm. It doesn't say specifically  
6 that a receiver is a firearm --

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. -- in this particular letter? And the definition  
9 of a receiver, according to ATF, doesn't match the CFR,  
10 does it, in terms of the components?

11 A. The definition is in the CFR, are you asking if  
12 it matches the AR?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. No, ma'am, it does not.

15 Q. Thank you. Actually, in your testimony you were  
16 talking about ATF, ATF can't determine specifically what  
17 the classifications are, can it?

18 A. Yes, ma'am, we can.

19 Q. Well, when they do that, they have to follow the  
20 law, don't they?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. Isn't as if they can simply change the law?

23 A. No, we have no authority to change law, that's  
24 legislative branch.

25 Q. That's right. So when The Court was asking the

1 question about the serial number, the fact that the serial  
2 number is placed on the lower receiver doesn't make it a  
3 firearm, would you agree?

4 A. Placing any marking on a part doesn't necessarily  
5 make it something else.

6 Q. Thank you.

7 MS. JOHNSON: May I have just a moment, Your  
8 Honor?

9 THE COURT: Absolutely. Yep.

10 MS. JOHNSON: I have no further questions at this  
11 time, Your Honor. Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Kurt? Sure, of course.

13 FURTHER CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. KURT:

15 Q. Sir, in your work with the ATF, have you, at any  
16 time, been involved in the drafting of regulations?

17 A. Regulation --

18 Q. CFR regulations?

19 A. Can you clarify, sir, what you're asking?

20 Q. Have you had any involvement in the drafting of  
21 what we call the CFR, the regulations?

22 A. Oh, no, sir, I have not.

23 Q. And what is the purpose of the requirements of  
24 serialization of parts?

25 A. It's for tracing purposes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. It's not there to identify a particular  
2 part as a weapon or is not a weapon?

3 A. No, sir, it's for tracing purposes.

4 Q. Thank you. If we were to talk about the upper  
5 receiver of an AR-15 and the lower receiver of an AR-15, is  
6 either one more lethal than the other?

7 A. Not particularly, sir.

8 Q. There's no lethality until all the parts are  
9 together, isn't that correct?

10 A. Right. I think Mr. O'Kelly may have pointed out,  
11 it is possible by taking a rod and a hammer to strike the  
12 firing pin on an upper, but you would have a dangerous  
13 situation because there's nothing really to contain the  
14 explosion, but --

15 Q. That's certainly not the case with the lower?

16 A. Correct, sir.

17 Q. All right. And there was some discussion of, I  
18 think it's Government's Exhibit -- the letter from the  
19 manufacturer asking for clarification?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Are you aware of any other documents post  
22 that which talk about this -- this problem of conflict  
23 between CFR definition and what the ATF wants to call a  
24 firearm?

25 A. I'm sorry, sir, were you referring to the '72

1 letter that I mentioned, or the '71 letter that Mr. O'Kelly  
2 mentioned?

3 Q. I think I'm referring to the '72 letter first  
4 that you mentioned, which was the request for guidance,  
5 correct?

6 A. Correct, sir. There was no -- it just asked is  
7 the lower receiver or upper receiver, it didn't talk about  
8 the definition of frame or receiver. I believe the '71  
9 letter was the one that may have mentioned that, I've never  
10 seen that letter.

11 Q. Okay. But you're aware of it?

12 A. Only from hearing it in court. I've never, like  
13 I said, examined that.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Jacobs, any --

17 MR. JACOBS: One question, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: If I were to charge you a dollar for  
19 every question it would be beyond the --

20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. JACOBS:

22 Q. Quickly, Mr. Hoffman, did you examine every one  
23 of these AM-15 receivers?

24 A. Yes, sir, I did.

25 Q. And in your expert opinion, is every AM-15

1 receiver the frame or receiver of a firearm?

2 A. Yes, sir, it was.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Further -- Mr. Kurt, further  
5 re-cross?

6 MR. KURT: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Hoffman, you're free to go  
8 or welcome to stay. It's entirely up to you.

9 A. Thank you, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Further witnesses -- or I  
11 assume the government offers exhibits?

12 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor, at this time --

13 THE COURT: Except for the actual, you know,  
14 weapon itself.

15 MR. VANN: We would offer the introduction of 2,  
16 3 and 4. Of course we will maintain custody of those based  
17 on the nature that they're firearms.

18 THE COURT: And then whatever's in the binder,  
19 you offer those too?

20 MR. VANN: I don't think -- we don't have a  
21 binder, Your Honor. That was -- the binder, I believe,  
22 was --

23 THE COURT: That's right. And this was the only  
24 one here.

25 MR. VANN: And Government's Exhibit 1 we didn't

1 intend to offer into evidence, I don't know if defense  
2 counsel wanted that.

3 THE COURT: Do you care one way or the other?

4 MS. CAHOON: Yes, Your Honor, we would like to  
5 admit Government's Exhibit 1.

6 THE COURT: I think it should be part of the  
7 record. It was testified to, and in case Melissa or I want  
8 to refer to it while we work on the opinion, it's there.

9 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: No further evidence. We'll confine  
11 our examination into whatever he covered in his testimony,  
12 though. Okay.

13 MR. VANN: Thank you, Your Honor. No further  
14 witnesses.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further by way of  
16 witnesses for this morning or this afternoon?

17 MS. JOHNSON: No, Your Honor, but we want the  
18 record to be complete. We did have -- Defendant's Exhibit  
19 C was just identified by Agent Hoffman, and that was his  
20 CV.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. JOHNSON: That was the only one we had not  
23 requested submission.

24 THE COURT: I thought I meant to simply admit  
25 everything that was in the book. Do you want to recall

1 Mr. O'Kelly for any purpose?

2 MS. CAHOON: Not at this time, Your Honor. Thank  
3 you.

4 THE COURT: This is the time, okay. Unless maybe  
5 at trial, I understand. Okay. Mr. Vann, what -- let me  
6 ask you this, let's start with Angela.

7 (A brief discussion was had off the record.)

8 THE COURT: Why don't I give you -- is two weeks  
9 enough, or do you want more time? I mean, basically what I  
10 would suggest is simply starting from scratch in light of  
11 the testimony. I mean, obviously you can cut and paste. I  
12 don't want simply supplemental briefing in light of  
13 hearing, I would much rather have one document.

14 MR. VANN: Just to clarify, Your Honor, two weeks  
15 after we receive the transcript?

16 THE COURT: Absolutely.

17 MR. VANN: That's plenty of time, yes.

18 MS. CAHOON: Yes. Is it this court's intention  
19 to have simultaneous briefing, Your Honor, because our  
20 preference would be to --

21 THE COURT: No, if you would prefer then to -- to  
22 do it the way I customarily do it, that's fine with me. In  
23 fact, that's probably preferable. So why don't I say that  
24 the movants, the defendants, shall file their -- let's call  
25 it a substitute brief, okay?

1 MS. CAHOON: Certainly.

2 THE COURT: A lot I've already read, doesn't  
3 matter, I don't want to be shifting back and forth, it's  
4 quite inconvenient. And then two weeks after that for  
5 the --

6 MR. VANN: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: -- reply?

8 MR. VANN: That's fine.

9 THE COURT: And then ten days after that for  
10 the --

11 MS. CAHOON: Depending on the dates, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Let's make it two weeks because ten  
13 days equals two weeks.

14 MS. CAHOON: Two weeks from the generation of the  
15 transcript, Your Honor?

16 THE COURT: No, no. Two weeks after you get the  
17 transcript, file your brief, they'll file their reply two  
18 weeks after that, and if you want up to two weeks after  
19 that to file your reply, that's fine.

20 MS. CAHOON: I'm sure we can make that work.  
21 Thank you, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Pardon?

23 MS. CAHOON: That's fine. Thank you so much.

24 THE COURT: So anything further?

25 MR. VANN: Not from the government, Your Honor.



1 THE COURT: Okay. For the defendants?

2 MR. KURT: Your Honor, you had mentioned earlier  
3 concern with Mr. Rowold's custody status?

4 THE COURT: Pardon.

5 MR. KURT: You mentioned some concern with  
6 Mr. Rowold's status in custody while all this is going on?

7 THE COURT: Why don't we approach on that, that  
8 way everyone else can leave. Thank you, folks, very  
9 interesting case, and we will see what we decide. Candidly  
10 this, undoubtedly, is a case in which I'm going to be  
11 writing a third brief for the Court of Appeals, I  
12 understand that, regardless of the outcome. That's fine.  
13 Happens from time to time. Very well. Thank you. Very  
14 well argued and extremely interesting case. Thank you.  
15 Tom and Tom, come on up.

16 (A side bar conference was had on the  
17 record.)

18 THE COURT: We probably talked about this before,  
19 but, you know, did I ask you about how come he's in?  
20 What's the issue?

21 MR. WELDON: You held a hearing actually on that  
22 after Judge Knepp detained him.

23 MR. KURT: I tried twice.

24 MR. WELDON: Well, there's a couple issues.  
25 Number one, didn't have any suitable custodians. Second

1 one was he was on supervision to you and violated, that was  
2 the big one.

3 MR. KURT: We would -- I'll be honest -- this is  
4 a little off the wall, maybe it would be work, he wonders  
5 if he could be --

6 THE COURT: Let me say as I tell other people, if  
7 you look at the position in the portraits up there, judge  
8 in the middle -- Judge Potter little to the right, Judge  
9 Katz to the left, Judge Walinski further to the right, I'm  
10 the far left, and I'm actually more or less positioned --  
11 actually, my first office where Vern Armstrong had her  
12 office, north that corner of the building that is where in  
13 the old Toledo Municipal park of what I have a park left  
14 field is located, so I'm right at home, Tom, go ahead.

15 MR. KURT: Anyway, his idea is to be --

16 THE COURT: As a side, I've got that tie, and  
17 that tie.

18 MR. WELDON: Good taste, Judge.

19 MR. KURT: He be admitted to a nursing home, he'd  
20 be a good candidate.

21 THE COURT: The trouble is -- well, okay, yeah,  
22 go ahead. What are those problems, what would be the --

23 MR. KURT: He's diabetic, he's got some kind of  
24 heart condition, he's got high --

25 THE COURT: How old of a man?

1 MR. KURT: I think he's 72.

2 THE COURT: How much?

3 MR. KURT: 72, Judge.

4 THE COURT: Tom, work it up, work it out, okay.

5 And, you know, I'm obviously a bit worried about risk of  
6 flight, but I'd like to know about his resources,  
7 background. If he's got a trust fund that he's living off  
8 of, that's one thing.

9 MR. KURT: Social Security and pension.

10 THE COURT: The simple truth, I'll be very honest  
11 with you, risk of flight is -- it's not based on failures  
12 to appear, okay, that doesn't matter. Abscond -- so many  
13 of our defendants they haven't got the money to go up to  
14 Detroit. So seriously, Tom, I may have not been quite that  
15 blunt before, the violence or other kinds of misbehaving,  
16 and if he's in a nursing home and --

17 MR. KURT: At least we know where he is.

18 THE COURT: And you put it together, present it  
19 to Tom, present it to Jordan or Cheryce, and I'll take it  
20 into consideration.

21 MR. KURT: All right.

22 THE COURT: Is he at CCNO?

23 MR. KURT: CCNO.

24 THE COURT: I assume, doesn't really matter in  
25 terms of accommodations, but I would hope little better up

1     there.

2                 MR. KURT:  I would think so, that would be my  
3     preference.

4                 THE COURT:  That will also give you a little  
5     closer access.  I wish I hadn't let people go, are they all  
6     here?

7                 MR. WELDON:  Everyone's still here.

8                 THE COURT:  Counsel, actually there are a couple  
9     things I'd like to say.  Have a seat for a moment.  I'm  
10    sorry.

11                (Side bar concluded.)

12                THE COURT:  I think I've made these -- this,  
13    again, those of you in front of me know this is sort of  
14    customary, and I don't know why I didn't think of it.  Just  
15    to give you my -- my thoughts to which you make -- wish to  
16    address, and I think they're pretty much contained, at  
17    least in the essence of what I said at the outset.  
18    Although I got the impression from the testimony that  
19    within the regulations there may be some inconsistency,  
20    that may be mistaken.  But if there is an inconsistency  
21    between one regulation that's at issue and another one,  
22    then it seems to me that it would be, quote, inconsistent  
23    with this part if that's what the thereof in the preamble  
24    says.  In other words, if -- and I think will take and then  
25    back to the -- to the statute.

1           In any event, I do think that I would suggest  
2   that you focus perhaps more -- or maybe you're content  
3   with, but I do think that the Chevron standard may be  
4   certainly as important, and I'm getting a bit confused. Is  
5   it in the regular -- does the regulation -- the preamble to  
6   the regulation say incompatible with this part? One says  
7   incompatible, other one says inconsistent.

8           MR. VANN: Your Honor, it says where not  
9   otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible  
10  with the intent thereof, intent in the statute.

11          THE COURT: Intent -- of the part -- I think  
12  there's some suggestion or some thought maybe where thereof  
13  refers to the statute, but as a matter of grammar, if you  
14  look for the related antecedent, the only thing within that  
15  sentence is part, so -- so, once again, recite that for me.

16          MR. VANN: Where not otherwise distinctly  
17  expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent  
18  thereof, and it -- the --

19          THE COURT: Okay.

20          MR. VANN: The beginning of this says when used  
21  in this part and in forms prescribed under this part, where  
22  not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly  
23  incompatible with the intent thereof.

24          THE COURT: And, again, this is a grammatical  
25  issue, but I think manifest -- or in -- again, I'm sorry,

1 inconsistent with the intent or contrary to the intent?

2 MR. VANN: Manifestly incompatible with the  
3 intent.

4 THE COURT: Or --

5 MR. VANN: -- with the intent thereof.

6 THE COURT: I'm very sorry.

7 MR. VANN: That's all right, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Read it slowly for me.

9 MR. VANN: It says when used in this part and in  
10 forms prescribed under this part, where not otherwise  
11 distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the  
12 intent thereof.

13 THE COURT: See, now, again, I think the thereof  
14 refers with the intent thereof, the intent of this part.  
15 However, where distinctly expressed, I think you might want  
16 to address whether that relates back to, or refers to the  
17 statute itself; therefore, whether or not simply leaving  
18 the statute alone is sufficiently distinct expression given  
19 the meaning otherwise applied to the term receiver that  
20 would inform someone attempting to determine whether this  
21 item was a receiver or not, but that individual could look  
22 to determine that yes or no. But as I said on the Chevron,  
23 actually have it in here, have to give me a minute, please.  
24 Do any of you have that at hand? It's in my notes, but --  
25 wait a minute, hold on a second. The Court said when a

1 Court reviews an agency's construction of the statute  
2 which --

3 MR. WELDON: Your Honor, may I -- this is  
4 Mr. Weldon, Your Honor. This contained -- you're citing to  
5 Chevron, and the government makes reference to this  
6 particular case on Page 12 of its response, which is what's  
7 filed on March 26th, it's document 41. And the quote, if  
8 you're looking for it, is if Congress has explicitly left a  
9 gap for the agency to fill, there is an express delegation  
10 of authority to the agency to elucidate a specific  
11 provision of the statute by regulation. Such legislative  
12 regulations are given controlling weight unless they are  
13 arbitrary, capricious, or manifestly contrary to statute.  
14 And that's at Pages 843 to 844.

15 THE COURT: It also says -- Melissa, can you read  
16 that?

17 MS. DYBALA: Chevron says when a Court reviews an  
18 agency construction of the statute which it administers, it  
19 is confronted with two questions: First always is the  
20 question whether Congress has directly spoken to the  
21 precise question at issue. If the intent of Congress is  
22 clear, then it ends -- then it's the end of the matter  
23 before The Court as well as the agency.

24 THE COURT: And then the second paragraph?

25 MS. DYBALA: And then must give affect to the

1 unambiguously express intent of Congress.

2           THE COURT: That aspect, both parts of that test,  
3 you know, whether it was the intent of Congress -- and,  
4 quite candidly, the intent of Congress, seems to me, was to  
5 regulate the availability and use of firearms or weapons  
6 within the firearm category. And my question is, and I'm  
7 sure we'll all be digging further in legislative history  
8 and so forth, but I think that intent is indisputable. And  
9 under that test, under Chevron, and I may misread it,  
10 misunderstand it entirely, that's fine. I want to  
11 emphasize, as I sit here today, the important of the  
12 Chevron holding and doctrine, and also the extent to which  
13 some, or at least I will have to acknowledge of the way the  
14 acceptable trend about that doctrine and its influence upon  
15 how we, as Courts, interpret agency regulations. I'll be  
16 very candid with you, it seems to me that if that -- that  
17 if the regulation, which is not the law, the law is the  
18 statute. Legislation is intended to, quote, fill a gap,  
19 something that's missing, something without which statute  
20 makes no sense at all and cannot be understood as that term  
21 is meant under the due process clause. And a regulation  
22 that leaves, you know, 10 percent of the weapons streaming  
23 off of American gun manufacturer line, assembly lines,  
24 however many that number is, I don't see how that can be  
25 upheld to be quite candid. In light of what, again, I



1 understand to be uninformed understanding, not having done  
2 really anything except having Melissa do a little bit  
3 beyond what was contained in the briefs about the interplay  
4 between congressional intent and using the terms that it  
5 does and legislative, you know, commentary enhancement  
6 clarification of thereof. And likewise, if we have, you  
7 know, and I realize that is borderline speculative, but  
8 it's fair to say that there's lots of firearms out there  
9 that have been manufactured over the years and lots of  
10 assault rifles since the assault rifle ban, and if none of  
11 that is subject to the Gun Control Act, how can that  
12 possibly square with legislative history and purpose of  
13 this statute? That would be ridiculous. I'm sorry to be  
14 so emphatic, but that's the argument you have to -- that's  
15 the position you have to address. And if it's a misreading  
16 of Chevron, by all means lay that out. And the same with  
17 regard to the statute, any inconsistency within the  
18 regulation, any internal inconsistency between one  
19 regulation and another, that may not have been the gist of  
20 the import of the testimony or the testimony itself, and  
21 also, you know, what does it mean to be manifestly  
22 incompatible with thereof. And once again, it would be  
23 more clear, so much else would be if the manifest  
24 incompatibility were the statute or the Congressional  
25 purpose in enacting the statute, but I don't think that's

1    what that means. The government may well want to argue  
2    that no, no, Judge, that's the way to read the preamble,  
3    okay. And those are the comments I wanted to make.

4                   And again, let me say this also, if you find  
5    yourself constrained by the time limits, I know you're all  
6    very busy, all of us are confronted with a truly  
7    overwhelming increase in the criminal dockets in -- in this  
8    court in particular. I understand you've just hired two  
9    more AUSAs, and at least seems to me that criminal case  
10   load, I know seems that way to my staff and fellow judges,  
11   is truly burgeoning, or at least it's expanding  
12   significantly, all of which to say here you have all got a  
13   lot to do coming in the door tomorrow, next week and so  
14   forth. If you find yourself needing some more time, simply  
15   reach out to each other and send a brief request to that --  
16   in that regard to Deanna. She'll let me know, and I will  
17   gladly give it to you, because, you know, perhaps I'm  
18   exaggerating, but somehow these two weeks I've got cases, a  
19   couple Lake Erie cases and now this case both being heard  
20   by me this week that I perceive as being the kind of case  
21   that require truly extensive effort regardless of lengthy  
22   opinion. But my best efforts to try to get it right, and  
23   the likelihood in both of these cases, I will be, as I say,  
24   the third brief in the Court of Appeals, and like anybody  
25   else who goes down to the Court of Appeals, I like to win.

1    So give it your best, I'm sure you will, and I look forward  
2    to the briefing and then to the challenge of resolving this  
3    dispute and moving on from there.  Thank you all very much.  
4    Greatly appreciate it.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

9

10           I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
11    from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

12

13    s:/Angela D. Nixon                           October 17, 2019

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Angela D. Nixon, RMR, CRR

Date

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